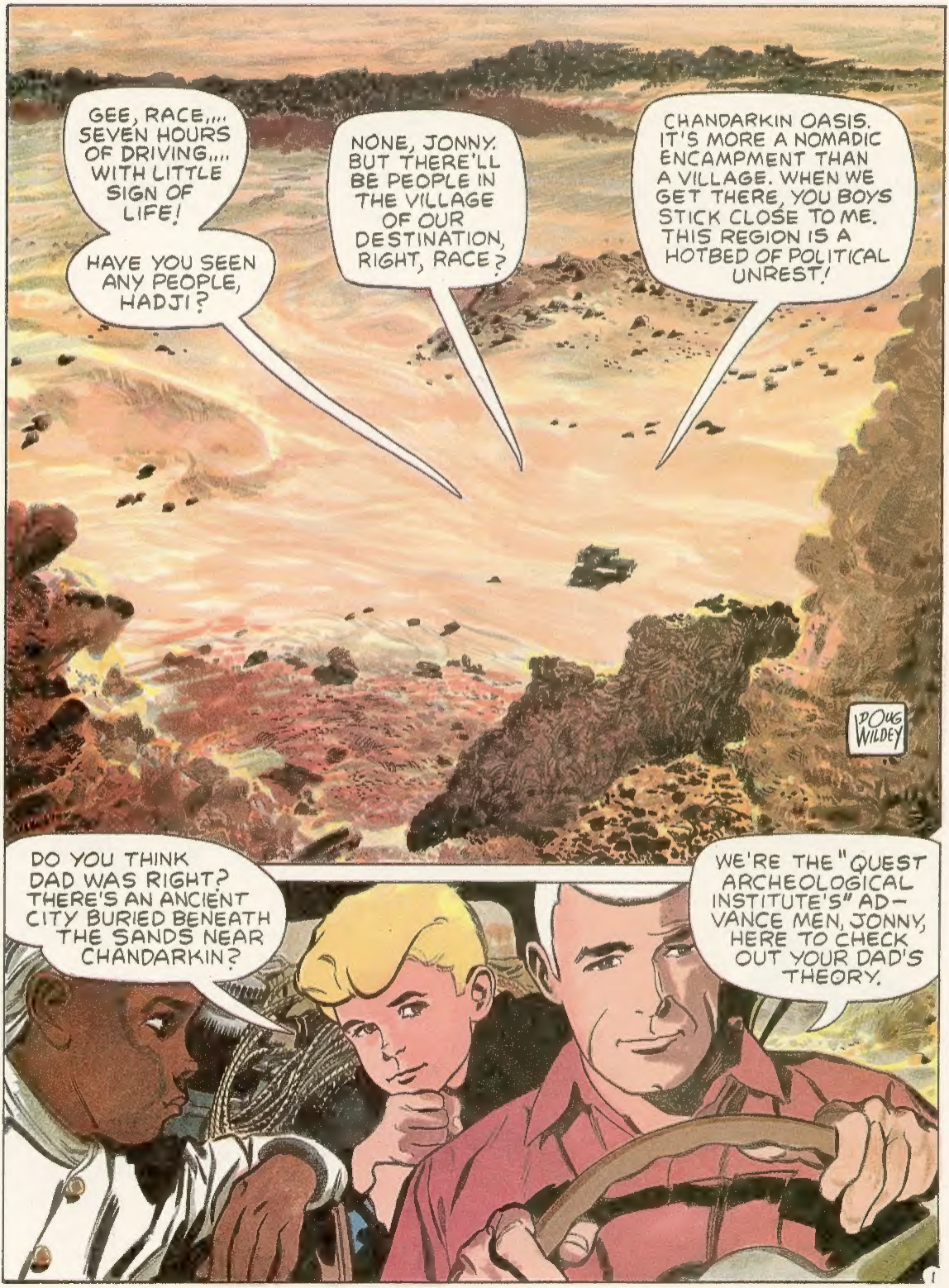
COMICO

JONNY QUEST™

VOLUME ONE
Issues
#1
through
#15

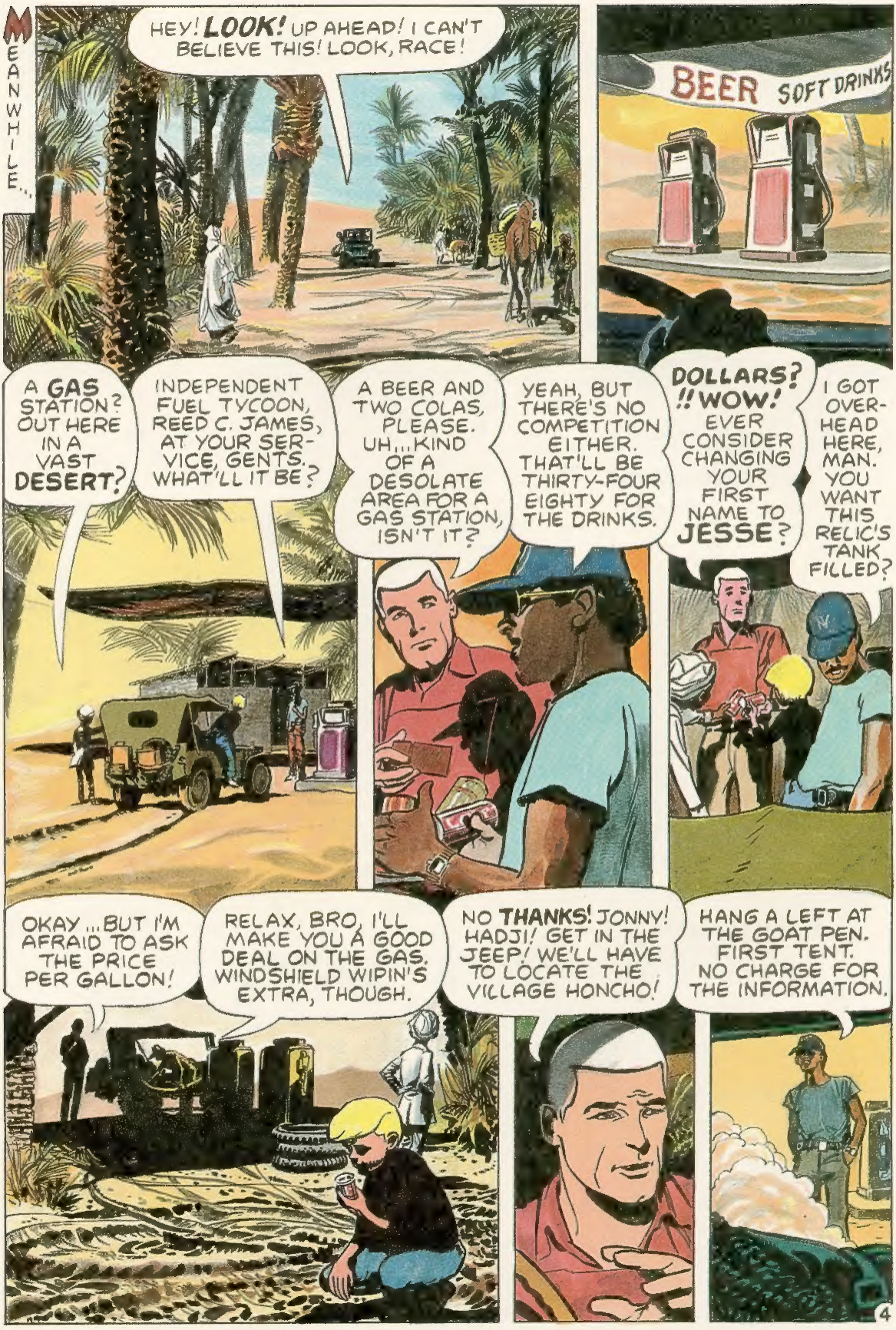
DOUG WILDEY

The SANDS of KHASA TAHID



SIX HUNDRED MILES TO THE SOUTH...
COMPUTER-ENHANCED AERIAL PHOTOS APPEAR TO SUBSTANTIATE MY THEORY, OMAR.
THE LOST CITY OF KHASA TAHID LIES WITHIN THIS PERIMETER.
A SCIENTIFIC FIND OF THIS MAGNITUDE WOULD REVITALIZE MY COUNTRY, BENTON!
RACE BANNON SHOULD BE NEARING THE OASIS NOW. WE'LL KNOW MORE AFTER HE TALKS TO THE ENCAMPMENT'S CHIEFTAIN AND RADIOS BACK HIS REPORT.
YOUR CHOPPER HAS THE RANGE CAPACITY FOR THE TRIP?
AND MORE, BENTON! WE'VE SPARE FUEL LOADED ABOARD AS A PRECAUTION. EVEN NOW, IT AWAITS, SERVICED AND READY.
BUT, AT THIS MOMENT...
2

TERRORISTS! CAN THEY NOT UNDERSTAND WE'RE SCIENTISTS?! NOT MILITARY?
THEY TOOK OUT OUR AIR TRANSPORTATION AND THE RADIO, OMAR,
I'VE NO WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH RACE AND THE BOYS!
I CAN REPLACE THE EQUIPMENT... BUT IT WILL TAKE A FULL DAY!
THIS "RANDOM" TERRORIST RAID VERY EFFECTIVELY CRIPPLED MY OPERATION HERE, OMAR .....
...SO FOR THE NEXT DAY, AT LEAST, RACE AND THE BOYS ARE ON THEIR OWN!
WHILE AT A HOTEL NEAR THE BORDER...
THE USUAL FEE HAS BEEN DEPOSITED IN MY ZURICH ACCOUNT?
VERY WELL...
PANJEE, PUT MY BAGS IN AN AIRPORT TAXI!
YES, MISSY JADE.


MEANWHILE...
HEY! LOOK! UP AHEAD! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! LOOK, RACE!
BEER
SOFT DRINKS
A GAS STATION? OUT HERE IN A VAST DESERT?
INDEPENDENT FUEL TYCOON, REED C. JAMES, AT YOUR SERVICE, GENTS. WHAT'LL IT BE?
A BEER AND TWO COLAS, PLEASE. UH...KIND OF A DESOLATE AREA FOR A GAS STATION, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, BUT THERE'S NO COMPETITION EITHER. THAT'LL BE THIRTY-FOUR EIGHTY FOR THE DRINKS.
DOLLARS?! WOW! EVER CONSIDER CHANGING YOUR FIRST NAME TO JESSE?
I GOT OVERHEAD HERE, MAN. YOU WANT THIS RELIC'S TANK FILLED?
OKAY ...BUT I'M AFRAID TO ASK THE PRICE PER GALLON!
RELAX, BRO, I'LL MAKE YOU A GOOD DEAL ON THE GAS. WINDSHIELD WIPIN'S EXTRA, THOUGH.
NO THANKS! JONNY! HADJI! GET IN THE JEEP! WE'LL HAVE TO LOCATE THE VILLAGE HONCHO!
HANG A LEFT AT THE GOAT PEN. FIRST TENT. NO CHARGE FOR THE INFORMATION.

MINUTES LATER...
YOU UNDERSTOOD HIS DIALECT, HADJI?
ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT OVER TWO YEARS' TIME A BRITISH EXPLORER AND SEVERAL TRIBESMEN HAVE DEPARTED TO THE EAST OF THIS OASIS... NEVER TO RETURN.
"DANGER AND EVIL LURK ON THE EASTERN OUTSKIRTS," HE SAYS!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
SADDLE UP... WE'RE HEADING EAST!
WHILE A CONTINENT AWAY...
TWO YEARS OF FOMENTING TERRORIST REVOLUTION IS ABOUT TO BEAR FRUIT, ALI!
WITHIN DAYS, MY ARMS SALES TO RIVAL TERRORIST FACTIONS WILL PLUNGE TWO EMERGING NATIONS INTO ALL-OUT WAR! THUS ENABLING ME TO GAIN POLITICAL CONTROL!
AND ONCE IN POWER, THE WORLD WILL DEAL WITH US ON OUR TERMS, DR. ZIN!
THE QUEST GROUP'S PRESENCE IN THE REGION DISTURBS ME, THOUGH.
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THEM.
I WILL SEE TO IT, DR. ZIN.
AND AT THIS MOMENT...
THAT GAS STATION, RACE... ...I SAW DEEP TRUCK TRACKS AROUND IT!
YEAH, I SAW THEM TOO, JONNY. REED C. JAMES IS DOING BRISK BUSINESS WITH SOMEONE!

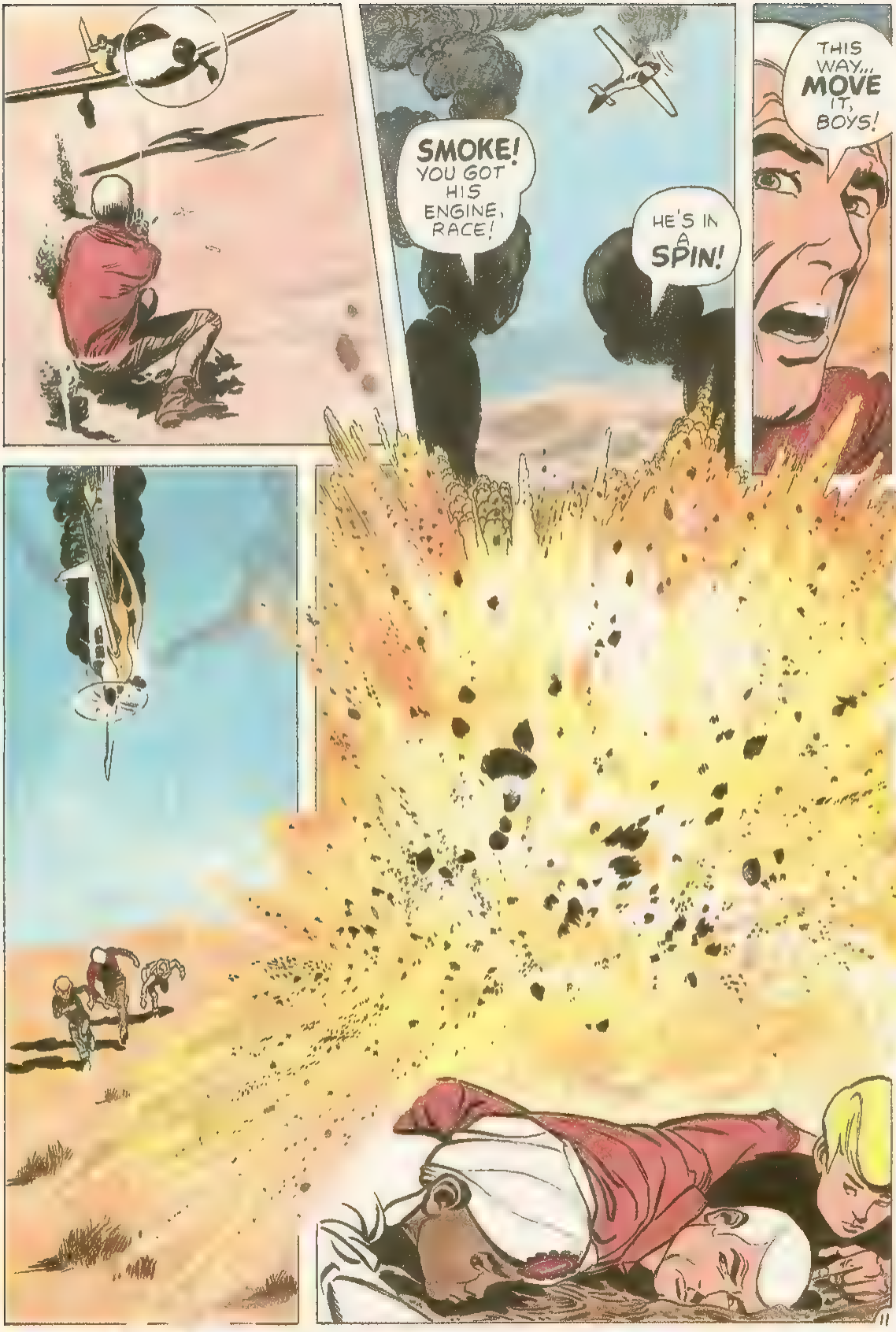
ACCORDING TO THESE MAP COORDINATES, WE'RE PRACTICALLY ON TOP OF YOUR DAD'S "LOST CITY"!
WASTE-LAND! NOTHING BUT MILES OF SAND!
I SEE SOMETHING OVER THERE...
A METAL CYLINDER! HIDDEN IN THIS BUSH!
AN AIR VENT, HADJI ... HERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
HEY! GUYS, OVER HERE!
THE EDGE OF A CONCEALED TARP!
START SCOOPING, BOYS! GET ENOUGH SAND OFF SO WE CAN LIFT THIS FLAP!
STAIRS! STAIRS LEADING DOWN! DAD WAS RIGHT, RACE!...THERE'S AN ANCIENT CITY BURIED RIGHT UNDER US!
HADJI, FETCH A ROPE AND A FLASHLIGHT FROM THE JEEP!
WOW! A WHOLE SERIES OF PASSAGEWAYS!
HOLD ON TO THIS ROPE SO WE STAY TOGETHER. WE'LL MARK THE WALL EVERY FEW YARDS SO WE CAN FIND OUR WAY BACK!

SHORTLY...
I...I DON'T LIKE THE VIBES IN THIS PLACE! THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, EVEN NOW, WHISPER OF,...
WILL YA CUT IT OUT, HADJI? YOU'RE TALKING LIKE A DOUBLE HORROR SHOW!
ULP! WHAT'D I TELL YOU?
TH-THE REMAINS OF AN ANCIENT CITIZEN?
NO, JONNY! LOOK AT THE CLOTHES. MORE LIKELY WE'VE FOUND THE BONES OF THE BRITISH EXPLORER!
WE'D BETTER BACKTRACK OUT OF HERE! I'LL RELAY OUR FINDINGS TO DR. QUEST ON THE RADIO IN THE JEEP!
WAIT!...ON THE WALL HERE ... WRITING! G.....O .....
HEY, HADJI, IS "GORILLA" SPELLED WITH TWO R'S...OR TWO L'S?
LET'S SEE... G.... O .... OH....!!
GORILLA?!!
OH-OH....
7

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR THIS SORT OF SITUATION, O COOL, FEARLESS LEADER?
YEAH, WE... UH... ... WE ...
...WE RUN!
HURRY UP, JONNY... ...IT'S GAINING ON US!
SOME SORT OF DOOR UP AHEAD...
GOT ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO DELAY THAT THING, HADJI? EVEN A FEW SECONDS?
I USUALLY WORK MY MAGIC ACT BEFORE LARGER AUDIENCES....
....HOWEVER.... SIM... SIM.... SALA BIM....
THAT STOPPED HIM IN HIS TRACKS!
A LITTLE FLASH POWDER WILL DO IT EVERY TIME!
QUICK! THROUGH THE DOOR!

SLAM!
WHEW!
WE SEEM TO BE IN A LARGE ROOM OF SOME KIND. TURN ON YOUR FLASHLIGHT, RACE!
DROPPED IT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, JONNY.
WELL...EVERY GORILLA NEEDS A FLASHLIGHT.
IF WE KEEP NEXT TO THE WALL, WE CAN PACE OFF THE SIZE OF THE ROOM....
HEY...!!
CLICK!
ELECTRIC LIGHTS?!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?!
A TERRORIST ARMS CACHE! THE GORILLA KEEPS OUT CURIOUS NOMADS, WHILE TRUCKS STOCK-PILE WEAPONS HERE. THAT GAS STATION IS THEIR REFUELING POINT!
THIS END UP
9MM

UZIS! AK47'S! PLASTIQUE! ZOWIE! A BIG ARSENAL!
THIS PLACE BORDERS THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.... SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY SHOULD BE WARNED OF THIS!
WE'LL TELL 'EM... ...IF THAT LADDER LEADS OUT OF HERE!
I'LL TAKE ONE OF THESE WEAPONS AS PROOF OF WHAT WE'VE FOUND.... LET'S GO!
MINUTES LATER...
SUNLIGHT! AH, SWEET AIR....
RACE! THERE'S A PLANE COMING IN... LOW!
IS IT DAD?
IN A LIGHT PLANE? NO, IT'S NOT YOUR DAD!
OUR JEEP!
WHAT IN. ?!!
DOWN, JONNY... DOWN!
TH-THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US!
HE'S BANKING FOR ANOTHER PASS AT US!


SMOKE! YOU GOT HIS ENGINE, RACE!
HE'S IN A SPIN!
THIS WAY... MOVE IT, BOYS!

MOMENTS LATER...
SCRATCH ONE TERRORIST ARSENAL!
LOOK! THE BLAST UNCOVERED PART OF THE UNDERGROUND CITY! WHAT LUCK, HUH?
YEAH, JONNY, WHAT LUCK! WE'VE GOT NO WATER. NO JEEP, AN EMPTY GUN, AND FIFTY MILES OF DESERT TO CROSS!
LET'S GET TO WALKING!
HOURS LATER...
...SORRY...OL'.... BRILLIANT BANNON ...GOT...YOU..INTO... THIS...FELLAS...
RACE!.... I... HEAR A CHOPPER!
...COME...TO FINISH...US ..OFF...I RECKON...
....WAS... ...NICE... KNOWING ...YOU ... HADJI....
..LIKE-WISE... J.Q.....
HELLO, RACE...I'VE COME TO BAIL YOU OUT ONE MORE TIME!
JADE! JEZEBEL JADE!
CLIMB ABOARD! QUEST HEAD-QUARTERS NEXT STOP!
I'M SHORT OF CASH, JADE, I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAN PAY FOR THIS RESCUE GIG!
MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING, BANNON.....I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!
The END

LOST OF TIME
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS
WRITER
STEVE RUDE
ARTIST
MIKE ROYER
INKER
MATT WAGNER
COLORIST
BOB PINAHA
LETTERER
DIANA SCHUTZ
EDITOR
THUP THUP THUP THUP
LOOK, DAD! IT'S JADE AND RACE WITH THE REST OF THE SUPPLIES.
GOOD. I WANT TO GET TO THE CITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BEER - SOFT
DRIED FRUIT
HERE YA GO, DOC. THE REFUELIN' BILL FOR THE COPTERS. JAMES' PREMIER HI-OCTANE DIESEL DELUXE!
ONLY A TWO HUNDRED PERCENT MARK-UP? I COMMEND YOUR HONESTY, MR. JAMES. A LESSER MAN WOULD HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OUR POSITION.
JUST CALL ME A WILD IDEALIST, DOC. 'SIDES, YOUR GUYS PUT IN THE GOOD WORD FOR ME... HOW I WAS AN "INNOCENT DUPE."
I SEE.

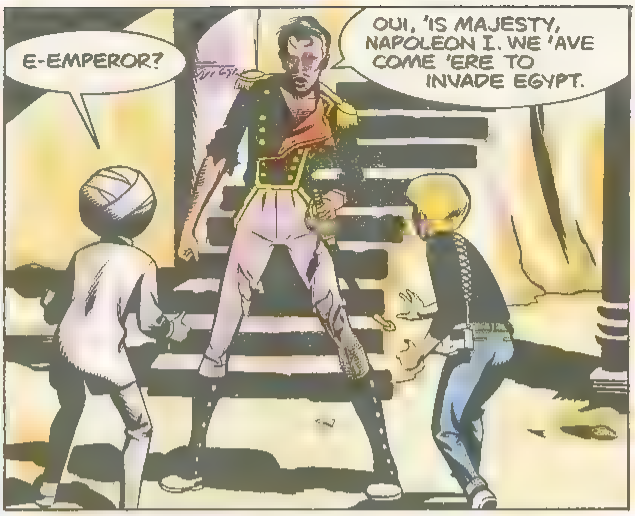
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE YOU'RE GOIN' TO...THIS KHASA TAHID. THE LEGENDS, I MEAN. THEY SAY THE FOLKS WHO LIVED THERE, LIVED FOREVER.
'COURSE A MODERN, SCIENTIFIC THINKER LIKE MYSELF...
OF COURSE, OF COURSE... ALL JUST SUPERSTITION RIGHT, BENTON?
YES, OMAR. BUT THIS AREA IS FULL OF RUINS... MOORISH, ROMAN, CARTHAGINIAN...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BANDIT? DID THAT CAMEL SPIT ON YOU?
...NOT TO MENTION SOME SCANT TRACES OF THE ORIGINAL BERBER NOMADIC CULTURE.
SO MANY PEOPLES... SO MUCH TIME. THIS IS A LAND OF DREAMS, BENTON.
THEN LET'S START DREAMING, GENTS!
TIME TO FLY INTO THE ROSY-FINGERED DAWN!
IMAGINE... LIVING FOREVER!
IMAGINE THAT!
DIESEL
2

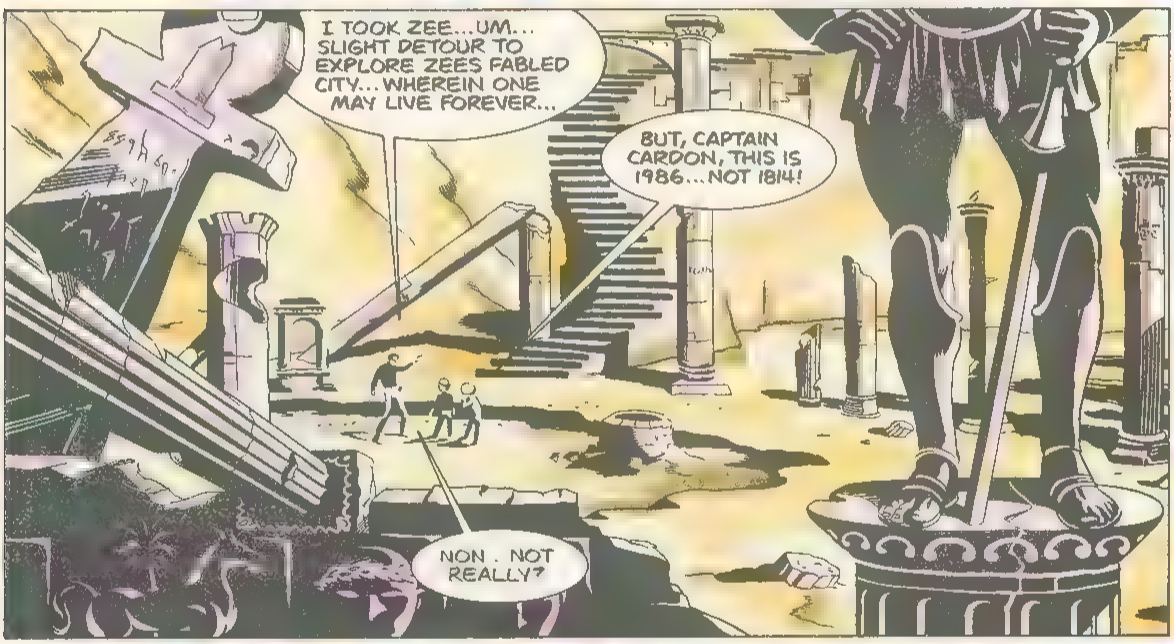
JADE! HAVE YOU GOT THE TENT PEGS OVER THERE?
AMAZING! THE EXPLOSION EXPOSED THE CITY LIKE A KNIFE.
ROGER!
YES, WE SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL TO DR. ZIN.
I'D LIKE TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE WITH A BIG ROCK!
LET'S SET UP THE TENTS AGAINST THAT IDOL... THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE JUDD HIRSH.
WORKS FOR ME!
BOY, THIS PLACE IS SURE OLD, ISN'T IT, DAD?
YES, JONNY.
IN FACT, I THINK IT WAS A MOORISH TRADING CENTER DURING THE CRUSADES.
NO, BENTON, I'M CERTAIN IT DATES MUCH EARLIER-- PERHAPS TO THE SECOND PUNIC WAR.
WHAT'S A PUNIC WAR?
"PUNIC MEANS CARTHAGINIAN. THE ROMANS AND THE CARTHAGINIANS FOUGHT SEVERAL WARS OVER THIS REGION. DOUBTLESS THIS WAS A PUNIC FORTRESS."
BUT, BENTON, THESE TILES ARE DEFINITELY ISLAMIC...
THE RUINS GO ON FOR AT LEAST A KILOMETER IN THIS DIRECTION.

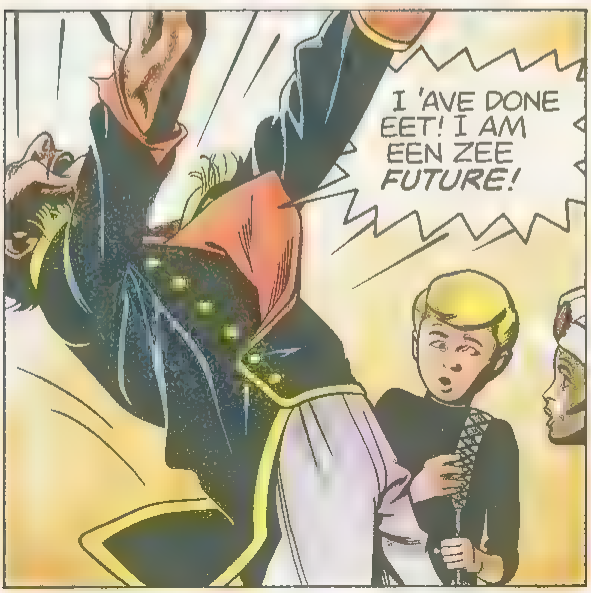
WE SHOULD BEGIN BY MAPPING THE CITY... MEASURE AND RECORD WHAT IS EXPOSED BEFORE WE EXCAVATE.
MISS JADE, WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
DON'T WORRY, DOC. YOU'LL GET MY BILL.
OH, I'M NOT WORRIED.
BETWEEN HER AND MR. JAMES, THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS IN HISTORY!
HERE, JONNY. I WANT YOU AND HADJI TO HEAD WEST. PHOTOGRAPH AS MANY OF THE PROMINENT STRUCTURES AS YOU CAN.
THIS CAMERA USES ULTRA-SLOW FILM FOR HIGH RESOLUTION. IT NEEDS BRIGHT LIGHT-- HENCE, THE STROBE-FLASH.
AND WHEN YOU PRESS THE BUTTON ON THE SIDE...
CLICK
ZZZZZZZZIIKK!
...IT HAS ITS OWN EXPANDING TRIPOD.
LET'S MEASURE OVER THIS WAY, WHY DON'T WE, BOY?
WHAT-- OH SURE, JESSIE. GOOD IDEA
4

DO YOU THINK RACE AND JADE ARE IN LOVE, JONNY?
I DUNNO. THEY ACT LIKE IT SOMETIMES...
...WHEN THEY'RE NOT SHOOTING AT EACH OTHER.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY...
WHY WHAT?
WHY THEY LIKE EACH OTHER. BECAUSE THEY ARE SO DIFFERENT.
MAYBE SO.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A WELL.
AND THESE LOOK LIKE GUARD TOWERS.
THIS PLACE IS SO OLD...WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE MADE A DISCOVERY?
SOMETHING WE FOUND ALL ON OUR OWN?
UM... JONNY...
I THINK WE JUST HAVE.

BONJOUR, MES PETITS. I AM CAPTAIN PHILLIPPE ARSÈNE CARDON, ENGINEER IN ZEE ARMY OF ZEE EMPEROR OF FRANCE.


E-EMPEROR?
OUI, 'IS MAJESTY, NAPOLEON I. WE 'AVE COME 'ERE TO INVADE EGYPT.

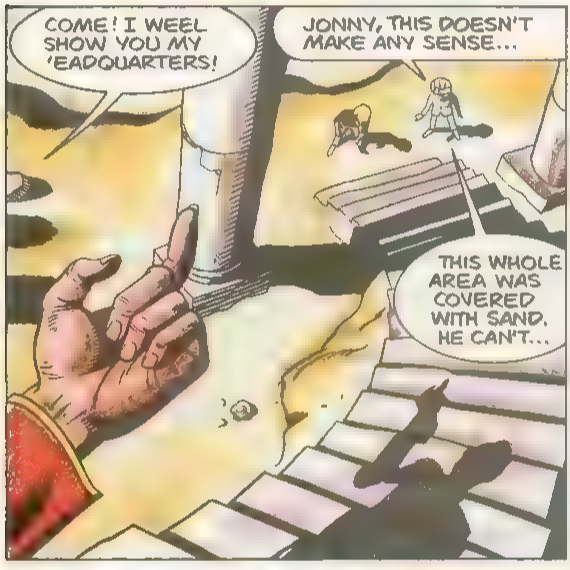

I TOOK ZEE...UM... SLIGHT DETOUR TO EXPLORE ZEES FABLED CITY... WHEREIN ONE MAY LIVE FOREVER...
BUT, CAPTAIN CARDON, THIS IS 1986...NOT 1814!
NON. NOT REALLY?


I 'AVE DONE EET! I AM EEN ZEE FUTURE!

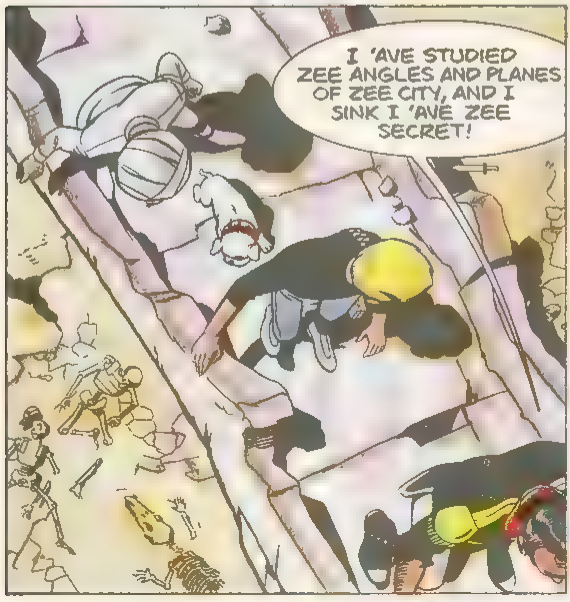
'OW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A CITIZEN OF ZEE FAR FUTURE?
GAK! WELL... ALL RIGHT, I GUESS... I MEAN...

MY THEORIES ARE PROVEN! ZEE UNIQUE GEOMETRY OF ZEES PLACE RESTORES ZEE CELLS...
...PRESERVE' LIFE!

I 'AVE ESCAPE' MY DEBTS, MY LAZY WHINING BROTHER-IN-LAW, EVEN NAPOLEON!
CONFIDENTIALLY... 'E EES MAD!


COME! I WEEL SHOW YOU MY 'EADQUARTERS!
JONNY, THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
THIS WHOLE AREA WAS COVERED WITH SAND. HE CAN'T...

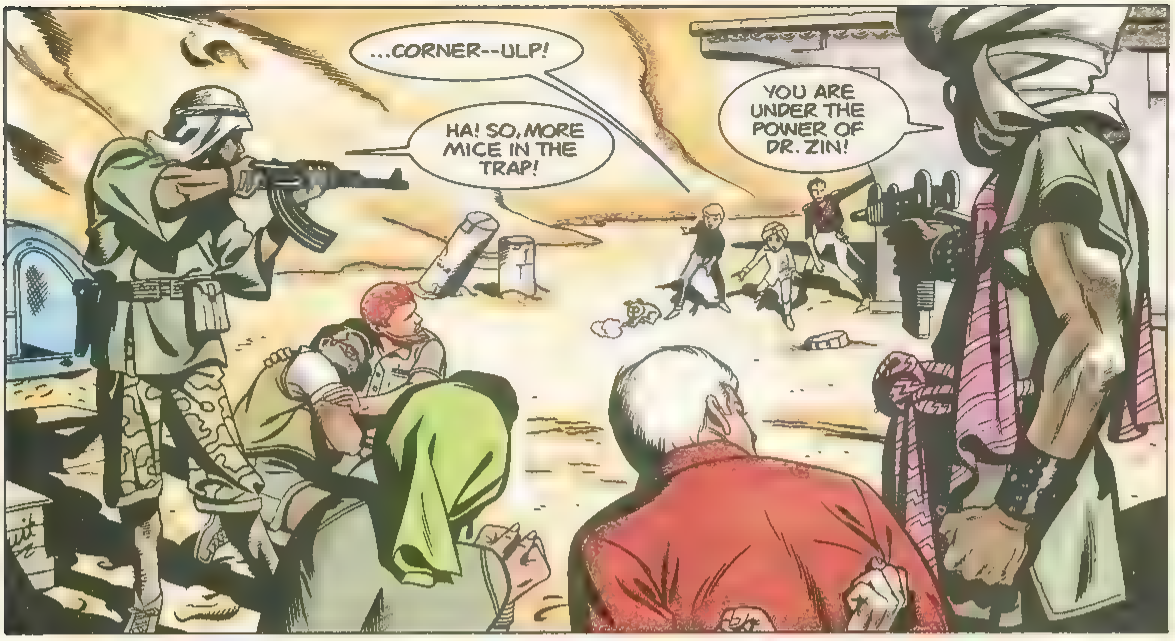
I KNOW.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG...

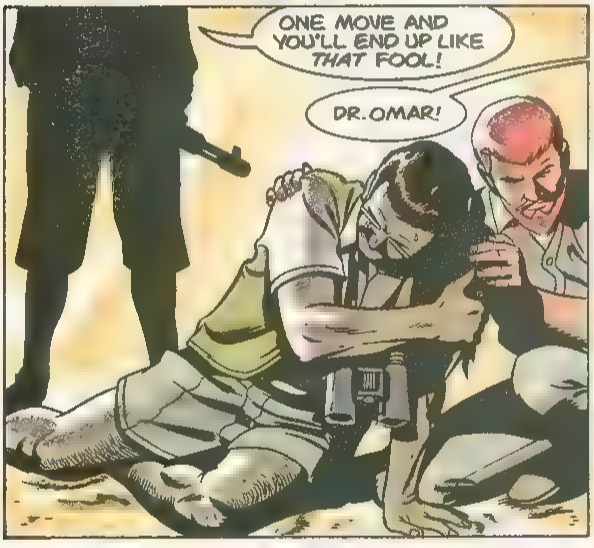

I 'AVE STUDIED ZEE ANGLES AND PLANES OF ZEE CITY, AND I SINK I 'AVE ZEE SECRET!

SOMEHOW ZEE COSMIC FORCES ARE FOCUS' 'ERE LIKE LIGHT THROUGH A BURNING GLASS.

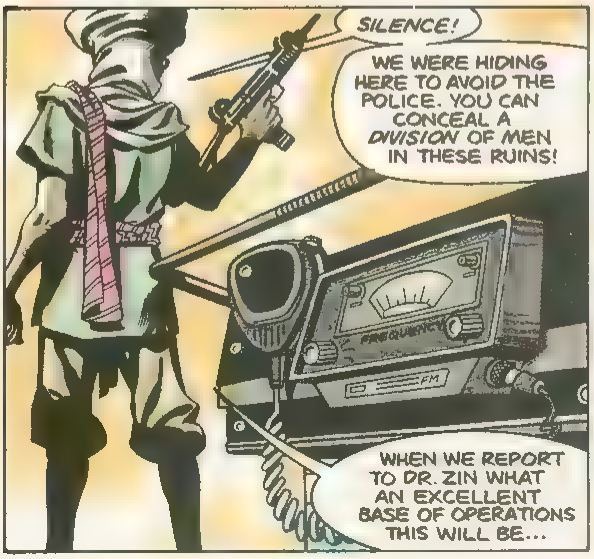
ENTER QUICKLY, MES AMIS.
FORTUNATELY, ZEE ROMANS 'AVE NOT FOLLOW'...
ROMANS?
OUI. A PATROL WAS LOST DURING ZEE PUNIC WARS. AN' ZHEY ARE CONVINC' I AM CARTHAGINIAN.
WE PLAY CAT AND MOUSE IN ZEE RUINS.
THERE ARE OTHERS HERE?
OUI. ROMANS, MOORS, GREEKS, TURKS, ASSYRIANS, AND VIKINGS. ALL LOST 'ERE OVER TIME...
...UNABLE TO FIND ZEE WAY OUT.
THEY FIGHT STILL ZEE ANCIENT BATTLES...
...FEEL ZEE ANCIENT HATREDS...
GRRR
DO NOT MOVE, AMIS!
WHAT IS IT?
EET EES AN ASP. TRÈS DEADLY.

SEE THAT STICK?
IF I CAN JUST CONCENTRATE... GET IT TO MOVE...
SIM...SIM... SALABIM...
SPROINNGG
QUICK! OUT OF ZEE TENT!
BOY, DID YOU LOOK SCARED! HA! HA!
HA! HA! I WAS SCARED!
LISTEN!
ZEE...ZEE TRAMP OF SANDALS! ZEE ROMANS!
BUT I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING!
THEY ARE RIGHT BEHIND US...
...WITH IRON-TIPPED FLAILS...
I DON'T SEE ANYONE!
...AND GREAT IRON-EDGED SWORDS!
OUR CAMP IS RIGHT AROUND THIS NEXT...
9


...CORNER--ULP!
HA! SO, MORE MICE IN THE TRAP!
YOU ARE UNDER THE POWER OF DR. ZIN!


ONE MOVE AND YOU'LL END UP LIKE THAT FOOL!
DR. OMAR!

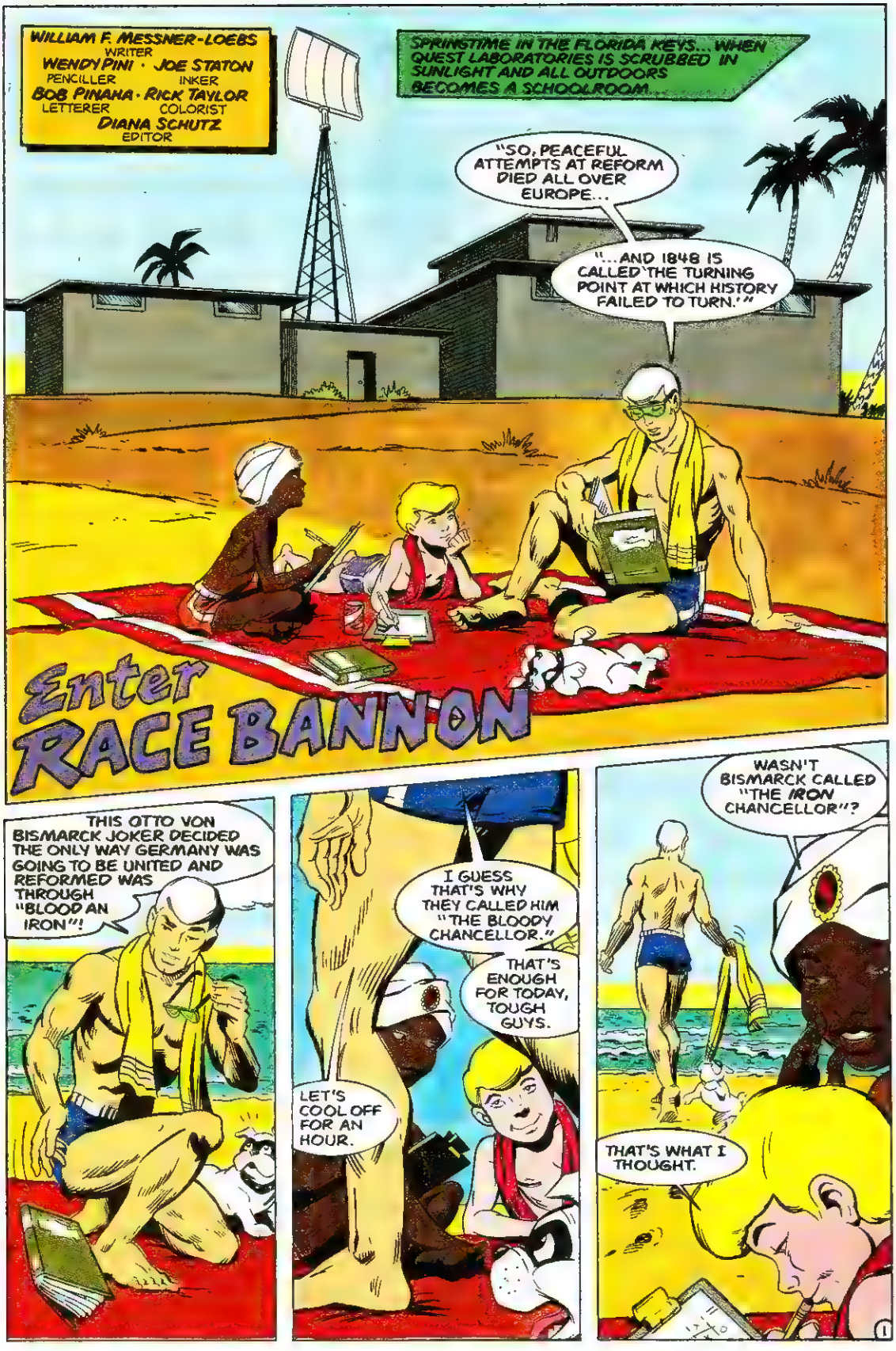
WE STUMBLED ACROSS THESE RATS ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.
THEY FOLLOWED US HOME, SO I GUESS WE CAN KEEP THEM.

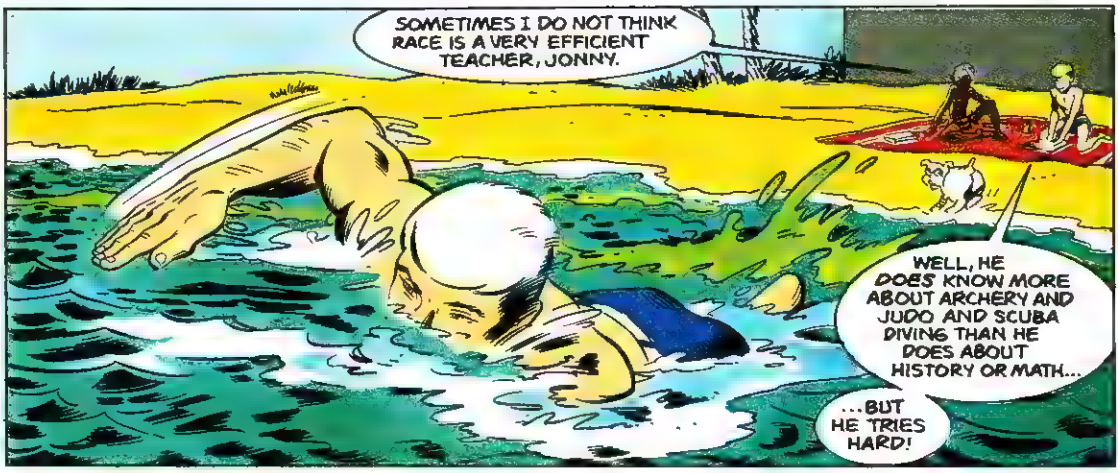

SILENCE!
WE WERE HIDING HERE TO AVOID THE POLICE. YOU CAN CONCEAL A DIVISION OF MEN IN THESE RUINS!
FREQUENCY
FM
WHEN WE REPORT TO DR. ZIN WHAT AN EXCELLENT BASE OF OPERATIONS THIS WILL BE...

NON!
ZEE CITY EES MINE! ZEE SECRET EES MINE! NO ONE CAN 'AVE IT! NO ONE!
HEY!

KRASH
RATTATATATAT
DIE NOW THEN!
IDIOT!
QUICK, JESS! HIS GUN!
TOO LATE!
THAT WAS YOUR LAST GAMBLE...
...AND YOU JUST LOST!
NOW YOU ALL DIE!
THUKKUHHHHHH

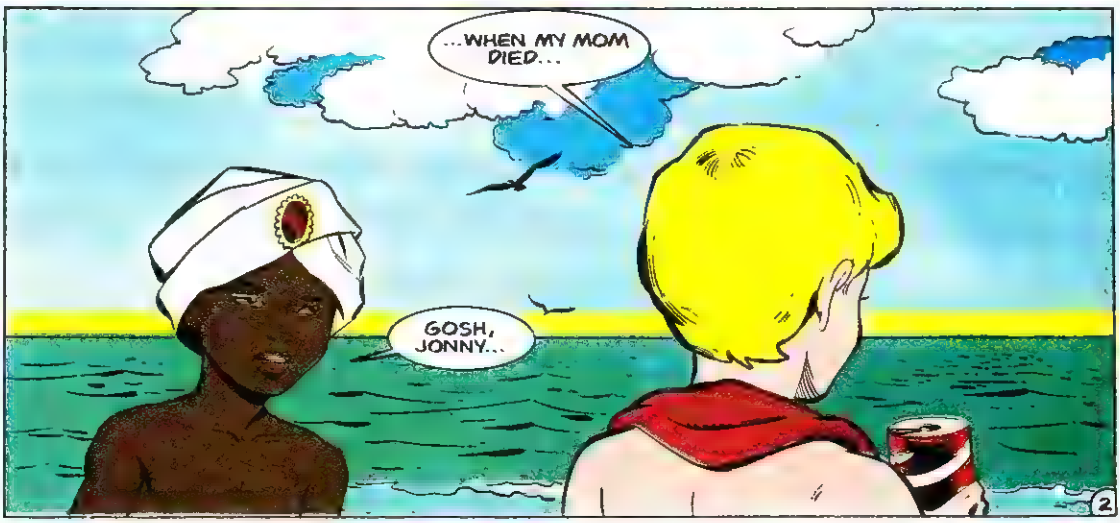
MINUTES LATER...
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL NURSE, MISS JADE.
THOSE GUYS JUST WEREN'T VERY EFFICIENT IN SHOOTING YOU, DOC
THE CAPTAIN'S BODY IS GONE!
HE CLAIMED TO BE SO OLD.
PERHAPS HE CRUMBLED TO DUST!
OR MAYBE HE CRAWLED OFF TO LET THE CITY HEAL HIM.
HA! HA! "LET THE CITY HEAL HIM"? YOU KIDS ARE LETTING THIS PLACE GET TO YOU!
YEAH HE WAS OBVIOUSLY JUST SOME OLD DESERT RAT WHO WANDERED INTO THE CITY AND DECIDED IT WAS ENCHANTED
THE ODDEST THING ABOUT THIS ARROW...
IT'S OF PHOENICIAN DESIGN.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY IT WAS OVER THREE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!
END


WILLIAM F. MESSNER-LOEBS
WRITER
WENDY PINI · JOE STATON
PENCILLER INKER
BOB PINAHA · RICK TAYLOR
LETTERER COLORIST
DIANA SCHUTZ
EDITOR
SPRINGTIME IN THE FLORIDA KEYS... WHEN QUEST LABORATORIES IS SCRUBBED IN SUNLIGHT AND ALL OUTDOORS BECOMES A SCHOOLROOM...
"SO, PEACEFUL ATTEMPTS AT REFORM DIED ALL OVER EUROPE...
"...AND 1848 IS CALLED 'THE TURNING POINT AT WHICH HISTORY FAILED TO TURN.'"
Enter RACE BANNON
THIS OTTO VON BISMARCK JOKER DECIDED THE ONLY WAY GERMANY WAS GOING TO BE UNITED AND REFORMED WAS THROUGH "BLOOD AN IRON"!
I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALLED HIM "THE BLOODY CHANCELLOR."
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, TOUGH GUYS.
LET'S COOL OFF FOR AN HOUR.
WASN'T BISMARCK CALLED "THE IRON CHANCELLOR"?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

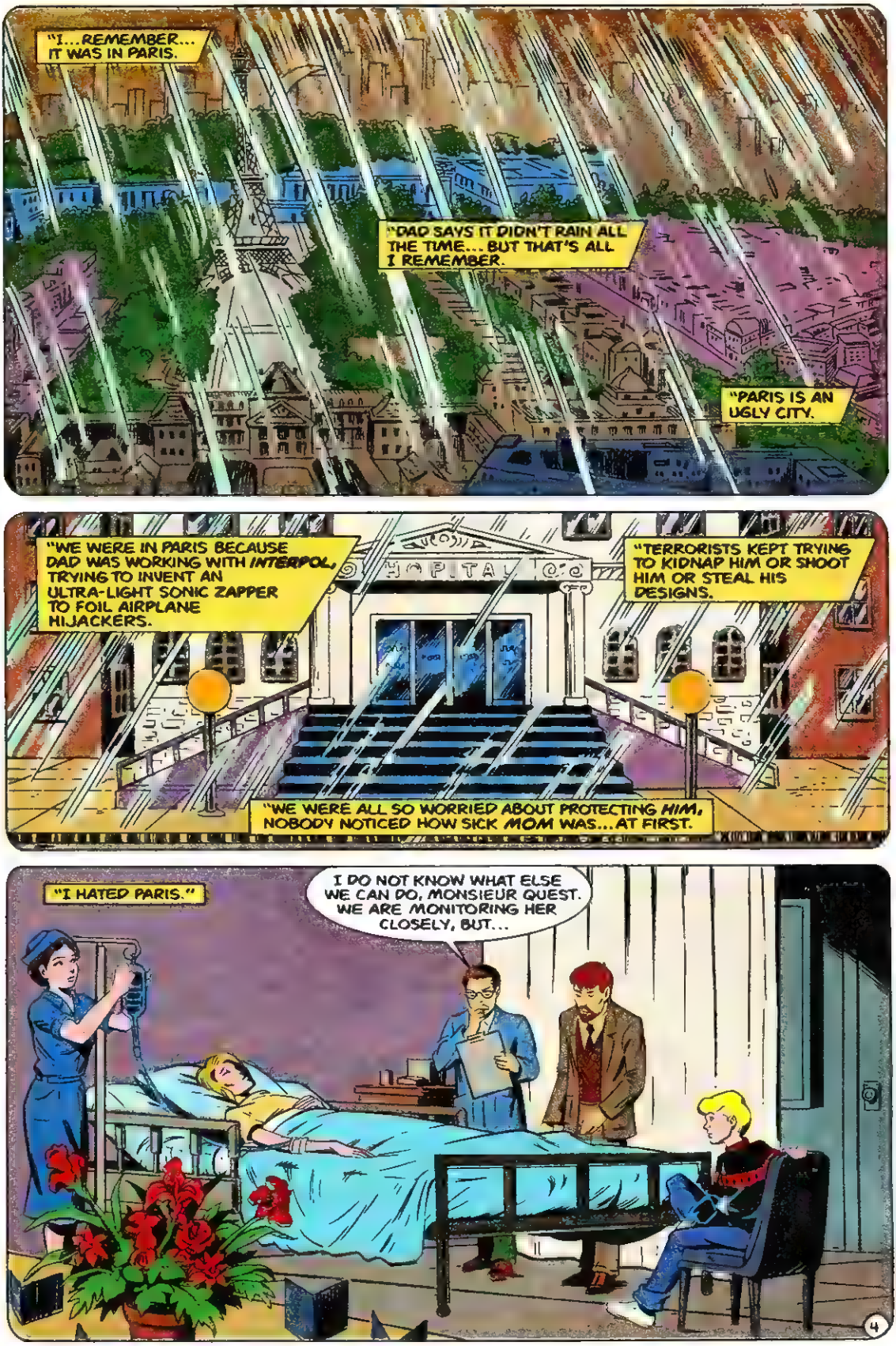

SOMETIMES I DO NOT THINK RACE IS A VERY EFFICIENT TEACHER, JONNY.
WELL, HE DOES KNOW MORE ABOUT ARCHERY AND JUDO AND SCUBA DIVING THAN HE DOES ABOUT HISTORY OR MATH...
...BUT HE TRIES HARD!

HOW DID RACE COME TO BE YOUR TUTOR AND BODY-GUARD, JONNY? HAS HE BEEN HERE LONG?

IT WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE I MET YOU, HADJI. JUST AFTER DAD STARTED WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT...


...WHEN MY MOM DIED...
GOSH, JONNY...
2

IT'S ALL RIGHT, HADJI... I LIKE TALKING ABOUT HER.
I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED HER.
SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.
"DAD SAYS SHE THOUGHT LIFE WAS A PARTY.
"SHE WAS ALWAYS PLANNING PICNICS AND CAMPING TRIPS.
"SHE WOULD WAKE ME UP AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND SAY, 'WAKE UP, HEAVY HEAD! TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE!'
"SEE, WE MOVED AROUND SO MUCH I NEVER GOT TO KNOW ANY KIDS, SO SHE WAS THE ONE I GOT TO PLAY WITH.
"WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, WE USED TO PRETEND I WAS A PIRATE AND SHE WAS MY FIRST MATE. SHE CALLED ME 'CAPTAIN JACK!' I...I...


"I... REMEMBER... IT WAS IN PARIS.
"DAD SAYS IT DIDN'T RAIN ALL THE TIME... BUT THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.
"PARIS IS AN UGLY CITY.
"WE WERE IN PARIS BECAUSE DAD WAS WORKING WITH INTERPOL, TRYING TO INVENT AN ULTRA-LIGHT SONIC ZAPPER TO FOIL AIRPLANE HIJACKERS.
"TERRORISTS KEPT TRYING TO KIDNAP HIM OR SHOOT HIM OR STEAL HIS DESIGNS.
"WE WERE ALL SO WORRIED ABOUT PROTECTING HIM, NOBODY NOTICED HOW SICK MOM WAS... AT FIRST.
"I HATED PARIS."
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO, MONSIEUR QUEST. WE ARE MONITORING HER CLOSELY, BUT...

THERE'S NO OTHER TREATMENT?
NO...SHE WILL BE INTERMITTENTLY CONSCIOUS...
..BE WITH HER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.
COME ON, JONNY... LET'S GO FOR A WALK.
GOSH, DAD, SHE WAS SO STILL...
JONNY, DID YOU... UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID?
HE MEANS MOM'S NOT... GOING TO GET ANY BETTER, DOESN'T HE? AND HE'S NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING.
THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO, SON.
IS SHE... IS SHE IN PAIN, DAD?
NO, SON. NOT NOW.
YOU KNOW, SHE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING FUNNY TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS...
...HOW THE HOSPITAL GOWNS AREN'T IN FASHION...
...OR THE COOKING ISN'T FOUR-STAR...
OÙ EST MON FRÈRE, MAXIM...?
JE LE SUIVAIS... DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
I'M LOOKING FOR MY BROTHER, MAXIM.
I'M SURE HE'S HERE--I SAW HIM WALK IN.
5

SHE WAS ALWAYS LAUGHING ..
"SHE WAS LAUGHING WHEN WE MET. SHE WAS A DEBUTANTE THAT YEAR... JUDITH WATERSTON OF THE BOSTON WATERSTONS.
"I WAS A NOBODY BY HER STANDARDS... A POOR GRADUATE STUDENT STRUGGLING WITH A MASTER'S THESIS.
"HER FAMILY DIDN'T .. APPRECIATE OUR GETTING MARRIED... BUT JUDITH LIVED ON MY SALARY WITHOUT COMPLAINT
"THEN, FOR OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY, WE EXCHANGED GIFTS. I GAVE HER A WATCH... SHE GAVE ME A LABORATORY
"I DON'T THINK I EVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW WEALTHY SHE WAS UNTIL THAT MOMENT.

BUT THE GREATEST GIFT SHE GAVE ME WAS THE ABILITY NOT TO TAKE MYSELF SO SERIOUSLY.
"I WAS A SOLEMN YOUNG GENIUS, GRIMLY DETERMINED TO SAVE HUMANITY BEFORE I WAS THIRTY. SHE REFUSED TO LET ME BELIEVE I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FATE OF THE WORLD."
FFZZ
"GOSH, DAD, THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A GREAT PRESENT."
"...IT REALLY IS."
"OH, BUT IT IS, SON...
IT'S FUNNY--I GOT MORE WORK DONE WHEN SHE WAS TEASING ME THAN I EVER DID IN A QUIET, STERILE LAB.
NOW I CAN'T CONCENTRATE... CAN'T WORK...
DAD, DO YOU THINK THE TERRORISTS ARE GOING TO TRY AND KIDNAP YOU AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW, SON, BUT WASHINGTON IS SENDING ONE OF THEIR BEST AGENTS, A ROGER BANNON, TO PROTECT US.

IN FACT, HE SHOULD BE ARRIVING...
"...ABOUT NOW."
"RACE HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FOR TEN HOURS AND HE WASN'T HAVING A GOOD DAY..."
JUST WHAT I NEED! PLAYING NURSEMAID TO A DOUBLE-DOME AND HIS PRECOCIOUS BRAT!
DUWAINE
I SHOULD'VE MADE THEM GIVE ME A JOB WITH SOME ACTION!
"...IT DIDN'T GET ANY BETTER."
I SHOULD'VE SAID...HEY, WAIT A MINUTE--
--I THINK I RECOGNIZE THAT GUY!
WAN THE WOLF, OUT OF BULGARIA!
AND THE CHARACTER UP AHEAD...LOOKS MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS...
NO MISTAKING THAT FACE...THAT'S GUY MALROIS...
WONDER WHAT PULLED HIM OUT OF ISTANBUL...
A SWEET LITTLE WELCOMING COMMITTEE...
HALF THE FREE AGENTS IN EUROPE ALL IN THIS AIRPORT AT THIS MOMENT--WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

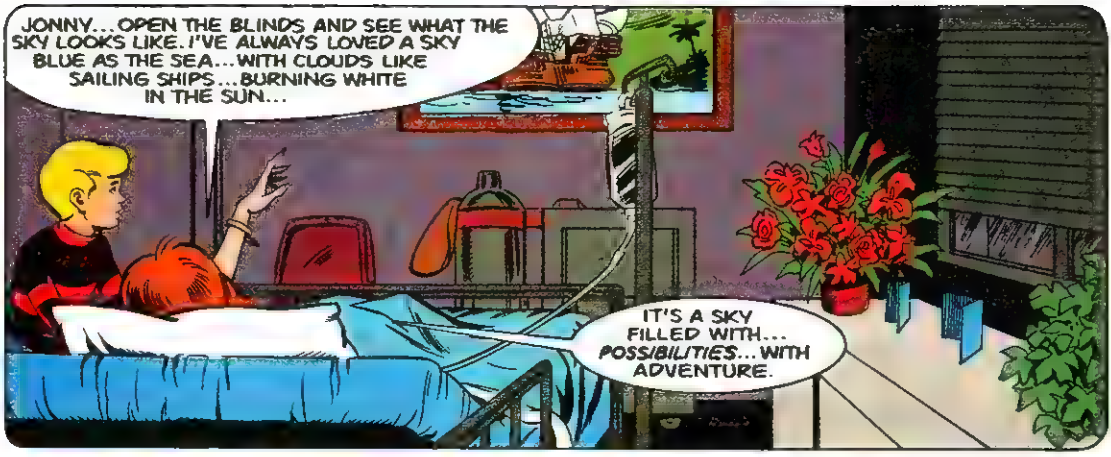
BANNON...
OOPS... EXCUSE ME MY BAG SLIPPED...
HERE, WOLFIE, HOLD THIS! THERE'S TWO BITS IN IT FOR YOU IF IT GETS TO MY HOTEL ROOM!
I'M GONNA FEEL REAL FOOLISH IF THIS IS JUST A HOODS' CONVENTION!
BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T...
SCREECH!
JUST HOLD IT THERE, MR. BANNON -- IF YOU PLEASE, MARCEL, QUICKLY!
NOW! GET HIM INTO THE CAR!

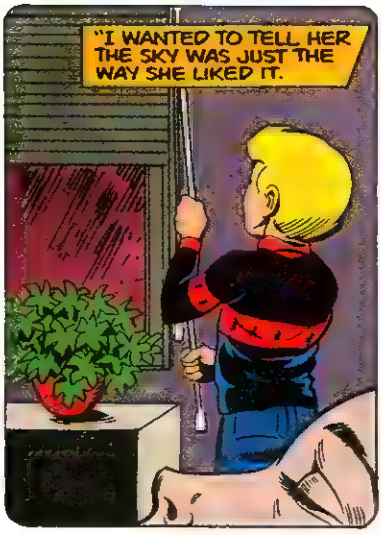
TIME TO SLEEP, MR. BANNON
OUCH! NOT YET, PAL!
WHAT DID I DO...
POW! POW!
SCREEET!
...TO BRING ON THIS LITTLE PARTY?
SSHHIIINNG!
KACHING!
GOT TO GET CLEAR...!
KA-POW! KRAK!

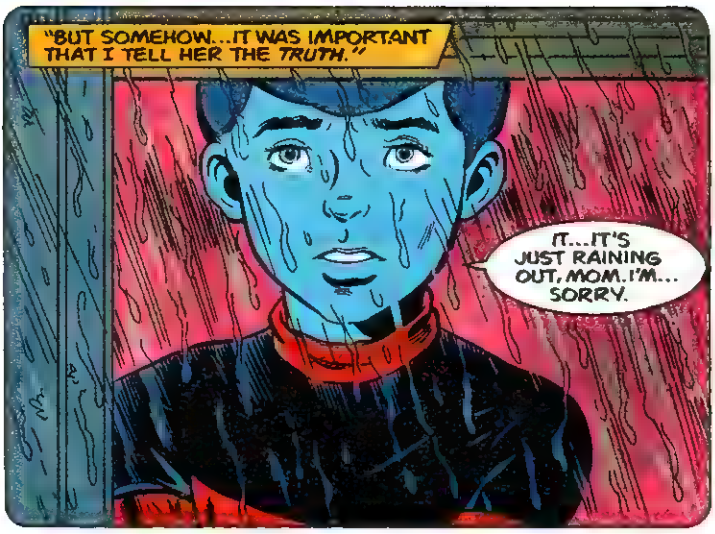
DAD, I...
DAD... IS MOM GOING TO DIE?
I'M AFRAID... SHE IS. WE'VE GOT TO LET OURSELVES THINK ABOUT THAT, OR WE CAN'T BE HONEST WITH HER.
DO PEOPLE... DO THEY STAY THEMSELVES AFTER THEY DIE?
I DON'T KNOW, SON.
I ONLY KNOW THAT, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, WE'RE ENERGY... AND ENERGY CAN'T BE CREATED OR DESTROYED-- IT ONLY CHANGES.
SO, I HOPE WE DO CONTINUE IN SOME FORM, IF ONLY IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE LEAVE BEHIND.
LET'S GO SEE IF YOUR MOM'S AWAKE, OKAY, SON?
'KAY, DAD.
MENU

THOSE GUYS KNEW I WAS COMING IN.
THIS HAS TO BE SOMETHING BIG.
I...I FEEL LIKE GARBAGE. I TOOK HALF OF THAT HYPO--BUT THAT WAS ALMOST ENOUGH...
A RECEPTION COMMITTEE... COMPLETE WITH WALKIE-TALKIES.
WHAT IS THIS?
I'VE GOT TO BUY SOME TIME...GET OUT OF SIGHT...
THERE'S AN IDEA... IF I CAN GET UP ON THE ROOFTOPS AND TRAVEL OVER A FEW BLOCKS, I CAN SHAKE THOSE MONKEYS.
I JUST WISH I HAD MY REAL LEGS-- AND NOT THESE SACKS OF WET SAND!
12

MOM... I... ARE YOU AWAKE?
HELLO, CAPTAIN JACK.
YOU MUSTN'T BE AFRAID, YOU KNOW.
I'M STILL YOUR MOM...
...AND THIS...SILLINESS...THAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...WHY, IT'S JUST ANOTHER ADVENTURE-- AND YOU KNOW HOW I LOVE ADVENTURES, DON'T YOU?
YES, MOM.
YOU'RE A FINE BOY, AND I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER...ALWAYS... HOW VERY, VERY PROUD I AM OF YOU.

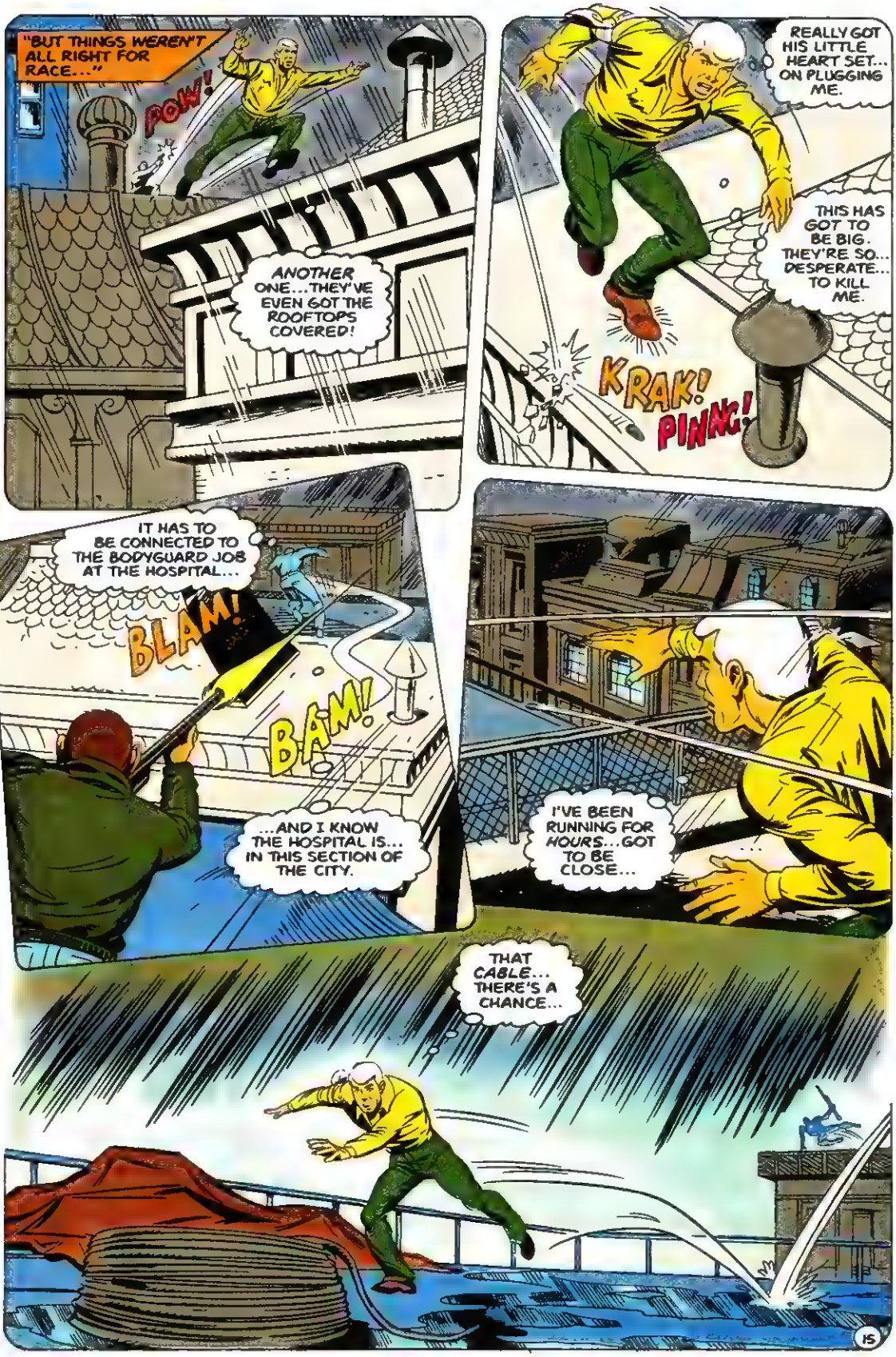

JONNY... OPEN THE BLINDS AND SEE WHAT THE SKY LOOKS LIKE. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED A SKY BLUE AS THE SEA... WITH CLOUDS LIKE SAILING SHIPS... BURNING WHITE IN THE SUN...
IT'S A SKY FILLED WITH... *POSSIBILITIES*... WITH ADVENTURE.


"I WANTED TO TELL HER THE SKY WAS JUST THE WAY SHE LIKED IT.


"BUT SOMEHOW... IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT I TELL HER THE *TRUTH*."
IT... IT'S JUST RAINING OUT, MOM. I'M... SORRY.

OH, JONNY... I LIKE THE RAIN, TOO... IT'S ALL RIGHT.

IT'S GOING TO BE... ALL RIGHT.


"BUT THINGS WEREN'T ALL RIGHT FOR RACE..."
POW!
ANOTHER ONE...THEY'VE EVEN GOT THE ROOFTOPS COVERED!
REALLY GOT HIS LITTLE HEART SET... ON PLUGGING ME.
THIS HAS GOT TO BE BIG. THEY'RE SO... DESPERATE... TO KILL ME.
KRAK!
PINNG!
IT HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE BODYGUARD JOB AT THE HOSPITAL...
BLAM!
BAM!
...AND I KNOW THE HOSPITAL IS... IN THIS SECTION OF THE CITY.
I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR HOURS...GOT TO BE CLOSE...
THAT CABLE... THERE'S A CHANCE...

I'M AFRAID HER CONDITION HAS WORSENED, DR. QUEST. SHE WILL BE DRIFTING IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS ALL NIGHT.
I SEE. WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I WENT IN AND SAT WITH HER FOR AWHILE?
BUT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...
OF COURSE.
DAD...I'M GOING TO TAKE A WALK, OKAY?
SURE, SON.
...I JUST SAW MAXIM GO INTO THAT ROOM. I SAW HIM!
16

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP...
HELLO, SWEETHEART.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, BUT...
...I NEED YOU VERY MUCH RIGHT NOW. I HAVE TO GET THESE PLANS DONE...
...OR HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE COULD DIE.
YOU KNOW I'VE ALWAYS WORKED BETTER WHEN I'M NEAR YOU.
SO YOU JUST SLEEP, AND I'LL STAY HERE VERY QUIETLY...
...AND WORK.

"AS I WALKED THROUGH THE HALLS, EVERYONE WAS ACTING LIKE THIS WAS AN ORDINARY NIGHT.
"I FELT EMPTY
"MY MOM WAS SO SICK, AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO FIX IT.
"JUST WAIT.
"AND WAIT.
"I JUST WISHED SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN..."

GOSH...
WHO...WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JONNY QUEST. WHO ARE YOU?
I'M RACE BANNON. I'M HERE...
...TO PROTECT...
...YOU.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH-- JUST MY USUAL AEROBIC EXERCISE.
ALL I NEED NOW IS A STATIONARY BIKE AND A JUMP ROPE.
WAIT A SEC-- WHERE'S YOUR DAD?
MY DAD? HE'S...
MAXIM!
THANK GOD, I FOUND YOU. THEY SAID YOU WEREN'T HERE, BUT...WAIT...!
YOU AREN'T MAXIM! YOU AREN'T MY BROTHER!
YOUR BROTHER LOOKS... LIKE ME?
VERY MUCH. EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK HERE FROM THE STATES, HE'S BEEN ACTING ODDLY. I THINK HE OWES PEOPLE A LOT OF MONEY, AND HIS FRIENDS ARE... SO SECRETIVE.
I FOLLOWED HIM TODAY.
HE WENT INTO A ROOM, BUT THEY CLAIM NOW NEVER TO HAVE SEEN HIM.
20

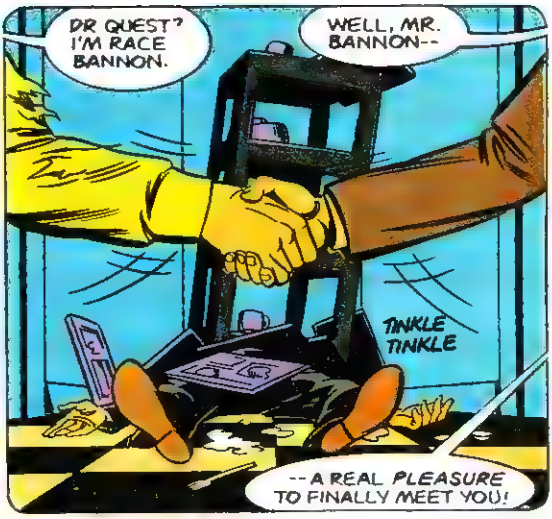
I AM STARTING TO BE FRIGHTENED.
I REMEMBER... THAT WAS THE ROOM ACROS FROM MY MOM'S!
WHAT?!
MY DAD'S THERE NOW!
C'MON, KID! SHOW ME THAT ROOM--QUICK!
THIS WAY!
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I THINK YOUR POP'S IN A TON OF TROUBLE!
HOW LONG SINCE YOU LEFT HIM?
I...I DON'T KNOW. AN HOUR MAYBE...
DUM DE DUM...
TAP TAP

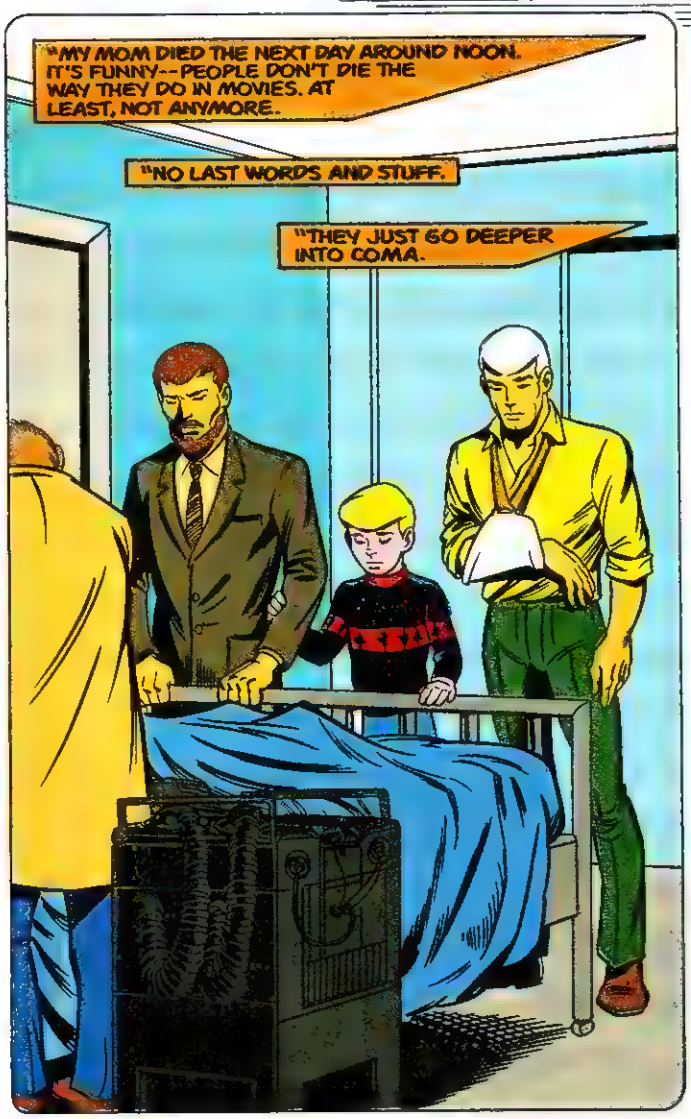
DR. QUEST?
WHA... OH-- I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF...
I'M ROGER BANNON. I'LL BE TAKING CARE OF YOU AND THE BOY.
COULD I SPEAK TO YOU AT THE SECURITY OFFICE?
OF COURSE.
NURSE, I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW MINUTES.
BE SURE TO CALL ME IF... IF THERE'S ANY CHANGE.

DAD! LOOK OUT!
MR. BANNON... I... WHAT--?
"I GUESS RAGE
THAT TIME.
THIS IS FOR DOPING ME UP!
AND THIS IS FOR SHOOTING AT ME!
AND THIS IS FOR A THREE-HOUR RUN IN THE RAIN!
"AND MAXIM WAS REAL CONVENIENT."

AND THIS... THIS IS FOR LOSING MY NEW LUGGAGE, YOU SLIME BALL!

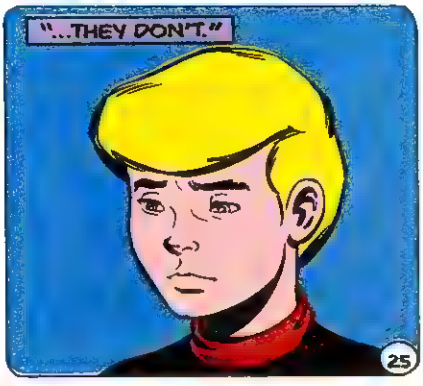
KAR--RASH


DR QUEST? I'M RACE BANNON.
WELL, MR. BANNON--
TINKLE TINKLE
--A REAL PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU!

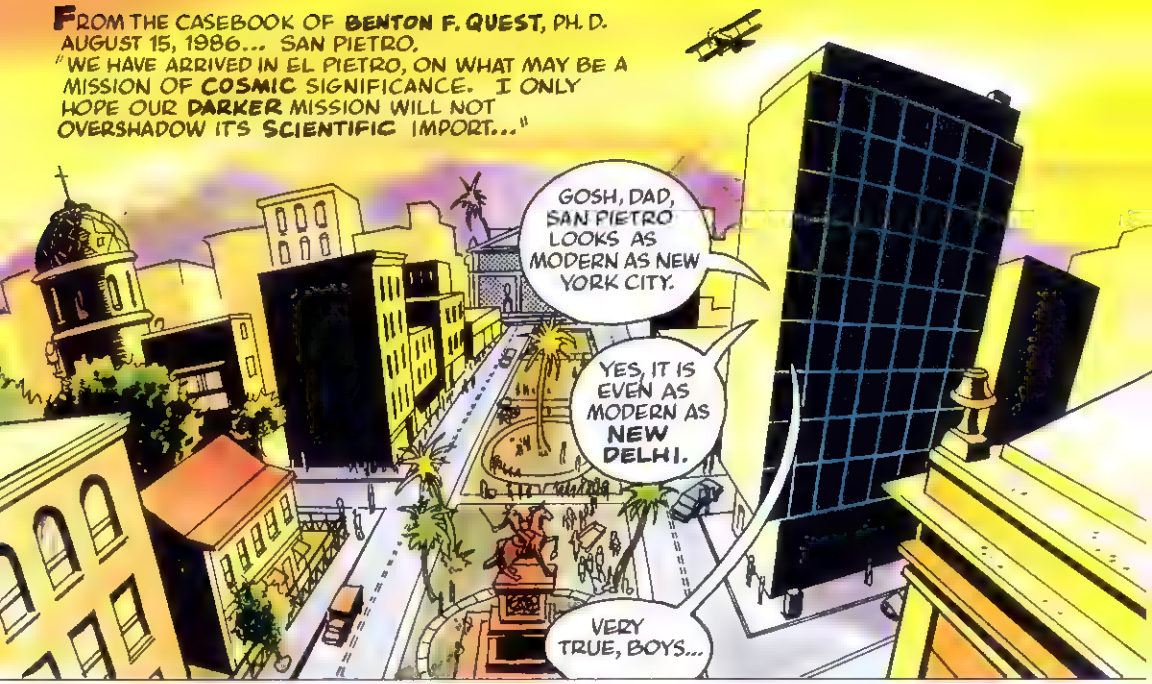

"MY MOM DIED THE NEXT DAY AROUND NOON. IT'S FUNNY--PEOPLE DON'T DIE THE WAY THEY DO IN MOVIES. AT LEAST, NOT ANYMORE.
"NO LAST WORDS AND STUFF.
"THEY JUST GO DEEPER INTO COMA.

"AND THE DOCTORS COME AND ASK IF YOU WANT THE MACHINES TURNED OFF...

"...AND FINALLY, YOU SAY YES.
"AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM, OR HOW MUCH YOU WANT THEM TO LIVE...


"...THEY DON'T."

WE BURIED MOM BACK EAST WHERE HER FAMILY LIVES. RACE MOVED IN WITH US. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT A GREAT GUY HE IS.
JONNY, I DID NOT MEAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HADJI.
I MISS HER, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HEY, GUYS, GRAB YOUR SCUBA GEAR! I FOUND AN OLD WRECK DOWN THERE! LET'S PAY HER A VISIT!
RIGHT! I'LL GE IT!
BOY! JUST LOOK AT THAT SKY, EH, JONNY? BLUE AS ANYTHING!
AND THAT BIG OLD CLOUD UP THERE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE AN OLD SAILING SHIP!
IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR ADVENTURE!
YES, RACE, IT SURE IS.
A GREAT DAY!
26



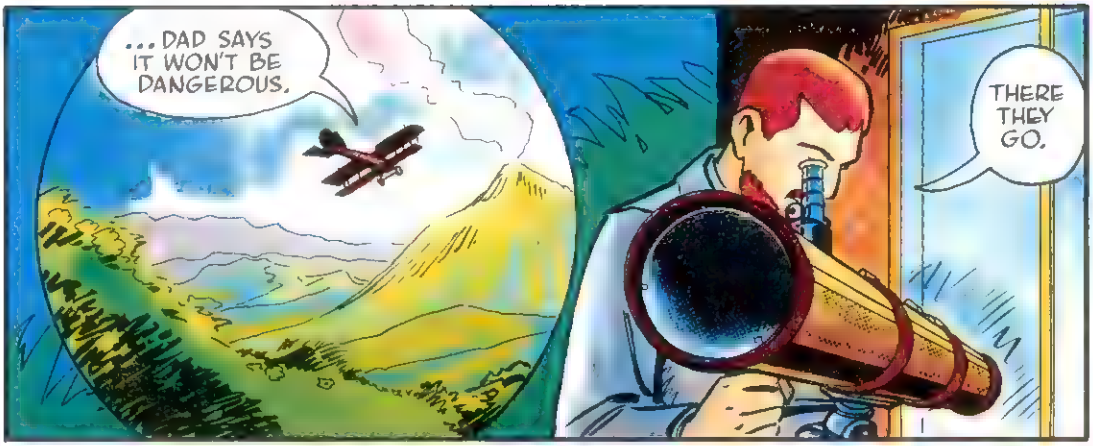
GUNS FOR THE LAUGHING MAN

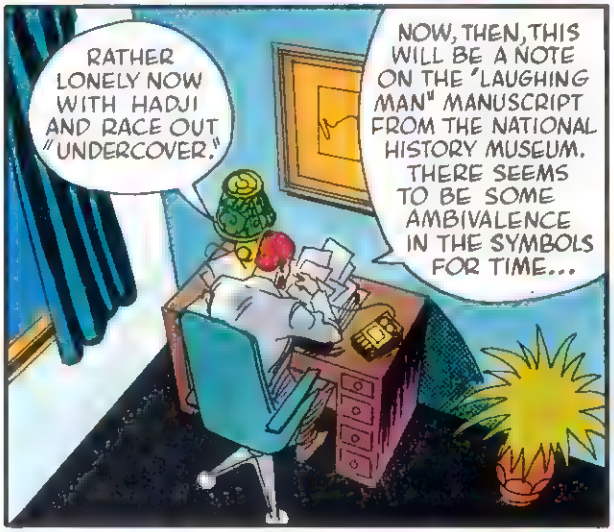
AH, YES. THE COMET, SÍ?
YES, WE'RE HERE TO TRY AND PROVE THAT A SMALL COMET... BARTELLI'S COMET... IS THE SAME BODY INCAN ASTRONOMERS RECORDED SOME 1500 YEARS AGO.
YEAH, THEY CALLED IT A GOD... THE LAUGHING MAN.
SÍ, A VERY POPULAR LOCAL GOD. WITNESS MY PAPERWEIGHT.
BUT HOW WILL YOU PROVE THIS?
I'VE EXTRAPOLATED THE SINGLE SIGHTING OF BARTELLI'S COMET USING THE INCAN DATA AND, IF I'M RIGHT, THE COMET SHOULD REAPPEAR SOMETIME THIS WEEK.
BUT CAN'T YOU OBSERVE COMETS ANYWHERE?
TRUE, BUT OPTIMUM VIEWING WILL BE NEAR THE EQUATOR.
AND WHILE WE'RE HERE I CAN REVIEW THE ORIGINAL INCAN CARVINGS. BARTELLI HAS RAISED SOME INTERESTING POINTS...
BARTELLI? THE MAN WHO SIGHTED THE COMET?
HIS GRANDSON--AND A TALENTED SCIENTIST IN HIS OWN RIGHT.
HE'S AN OLD CREEP! HE SAID DAD WAS TRYING TO STEAL HIS FAMILY'S COMET!
WELL, THE POINT IS, BARTELLI WILL BE CHECKING ME CLOSELY, SO I MUST BE SURE THAT MY CALCULATIONS ARE...
BUT THIS FLYING ROCK IS NOT THE ONLY REASON YOU HAVE COME-- CORRECT, SEÑOR DOCTOR?

AT LEAST, I HOPE NOT-- OR I WILL HAVE WALKED ACROSS TOWN IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY FOR NOTHING.
COLONEL DIAZ! I... UM...
THAT IS TO SAY... UM... THESE PEOPLE...
GLIB AS EVER, MY DEAR MINISTER.
DOUBTLESS THIS IS THE FAMOUS DR. QUEST AND HIS ASSOCIATES.
WHY THANK YOU, COLONEL.
YEAH, HI.
THE... UM... COLONEL IS THE HEAD OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. HE...
YES, YES... WELL SAID, MINISTER, BUT I BELIEVE YOU ARE NEEDED IN THE FILE ROOM.
I... I AM? I MEAN, OF COURSE, BUT...
THERE... THE FEWER WHO KNOW OF YOUR TRUE MISSION, THE BETTER!
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE BEEN TOLD OF THE SITUATION HERE?
IN GENERAL.
YOUR PEOPLE ARE BEING THREATENED BY A BAND OF TERRORIST PUG-UGLIES OUT IN THE BOONIES.
YES, THE HEAD OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES CALLS HIMSELF "THE LAUGHING MAN." HE CLAIMS TO BE IMMORTAL AND OMNIPOTENT. CERTAINLY HE HAS FOUND A WAY FOR AN ENDLESS STREAM OF WEAPONS TO ENTER THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT DETECTION.
WE ARE SLOWLY BEING CHOPPED TO PIECES.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
YOU COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. I AM SURE YOU WILL THINK OF...
RRR
AHHH! THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOUR CONTACT NOW... LATE AS USUAL.
RRRR

THAT IDIOT!
"THE MIDAS TOUCH"? NO, IT CAN'T BE!
RRRRR
MIDAS
RACER!
WILD JIM!
GUYS, THIS IS WILD JIM CANNON. WE WERE PALS BACK AT STATE U.
YEP. THEY CALLED US "CANNON AND BANNON, LUNATICS FOR HIRE."
BANNON AND CANNON, YOU GLORY HOUND!
CANNON!
YOU IMBECILE! YOU DRUNKEN FOOL! LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!
DRUNKEN BUM! THIS TIME I WILL THROW THE BOOK AT YOU!
AW, COLONEL, HONEY... DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM. JUS' SCARED A FEW CHICKENS!
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW. LAUGH OFF THIRTY DAYS IN JAIL!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE!
I DON'T GET IT, HADJI. WILD JIM DIDN'T LOOK DRUNK TO ME.
I THINK I UNDERSTAND, JONNY.

HA! HA! HA! THIRTY DAYS, INDEED! YOU'RE A HARD MAN, COLONEL!
I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING, JAMES. WE DON'T WANT THE LAUGHING MAN CULT TO CONNECT YOU WITH ME.
SO YOU TWO PRETEND TO BE ENEMIES?
YEP. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A DOWN-AT-THE-HEELS CROP-DUSTER AND BARNSTORMER.
ACTUALLY, CROP-DUSTING DOESN'T PAY BADLY!
SAME OLD WILD JIM. JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE PARTNERS IN THE AGENCY. EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH TURNS TO GOLD! I NAMED YOUR FIRST PLANE "THE MIDAS TOUCH."
AND HE CAN WATCH THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR TERRORIST CAMPS. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY TRACE OF THE TRAIL THEY ARE SMUGGLING THE GUNS IN ON?
I MAY HAVE. LOOKED LIKE SOME ACTIVITY IN THE JUNGLE SOUTHEAST OF TOWN, BUT I WAS RUNNING SHORT OF GAS. HENCE THE QUICK SET DOWN.
WELL, ANYTHING WE CAN DO, WE WILL. THE U.S. SENDS A LOT OF CASH DOWN HERE TO HELP FIGHT TERRORISM. IF WE CAN PUT AN END TO THIS "LAUGHING MAN," WE'LL ALL BE IN BETTER SHAPE.
BE CAREFUL, MY FRIENDS. THIS CULT IS STRONG AND HAS MANY MEMBERS...
...YOU CAN NEVER BE SURE WHOM YOU CAN TRUST.
AND SO, SOMEWHAT LATER...
GLAD YOU COULD TAG ALONG ON THIS SCOUTING RUN, KID.
WELL, I'VE NEVER FLOWN IN A PLANE THIS OLD, WILD JIM, AND SINCE WE'RE ONLY SCOUTING...


...DAD SAYS IT WON'T BE DANGEROUS.
THERE THEY GO.


RATHER LONELY NOW WITH HADJI AND RACE OUT "UNDERCOVER."
NOW, THEN, THIS WILL BE A NOTE ON THE 'LAUGHING MAN" MANUSCRIPT FROM THE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME AMBIVALENCE IN THE SYMBOLS FOR TIME...

WHAT I HAD BEEN READING AS "THE YEAR OF THE PLUMED SERPENT" COULD ALSO BE READ--
YES, WHO'S THERE? IS THAT YOU, RACE?

OH, NO... LOOK, FELLOWS, CAN'T WE JUST TALK THIS OVER?

EVERYONE LOOKS SO BEATEN DOWN, RACE.
HALF THE COUNTRY IS IN POVERTY. IT'S THE BREEDING GROUND FOR TERRORISM.
AND CALL ME "GRAMPA".
SO FAR, NOTHING. NO TRACE OF GUN RUNNING, AND NO ONE IS WILLING TO TALK. TOO BAD WE CAN'T READ MINDS.
I WILL DO MY BEST.
YOU CAN READ MINDS?
SOMETIMES, IF I DON'T TRY TOO HARD...
AH, THAT MAN. HE IS THINKING OF GUNS AND HIS MIND IS FULL OF FEAR.
LET'S SEE WHERE HIS FEAR TAKES HIM, THEN.
LOOK, RACE!
YEAH, INTERESTING. WE'LL WAIT A BIT AND SEE IF HE COMES OUT.
SEVERAL MINUTES PASS.
THAT'S THE THIRD MAN. LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.

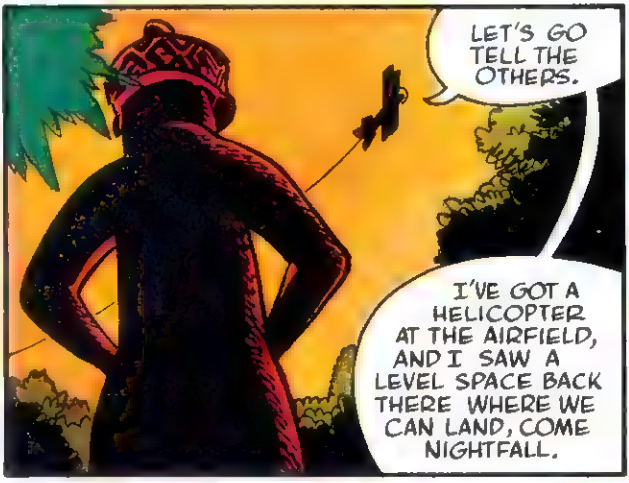
LOOK, RACE. IF YOU GIVE ME A BOOST, I THINK I CAN MAKE IT.
THERE YOU GO, PAL. =OOF!= CAN'T YOU FLOAT FOR THIS SORT OF THING?
SOMETIMES, BUT THIS IS EASIER.
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
I...I SEE MINISTER VARDEZ! HE'S PART OF THE GANG!
U.S.ARMY
AND THE RIFLES... THEY HAVE U.S. MARKINGS ON THEM.
SO THAT'S WHY WE'VE HAD TO SEND SO MUCH AID HERE... WE'VE BEEN SUPPLYING THE TERRORISTS TOO -- WITH THE HELP OF A TRAITOR!
COME ON... IT'S TIME TO GO!

BUT WE SAW... EVERYTHING. EXPOSED THE WHOLE PLOT. IT WAS SO... SIMPLE.
SOMETIMES IT WORKS OUT THAT WAY, PAL.
SEE ANYTHING YET, KID?
NO, JUST LOTS AND LOTS OF GREEN STUFF.
JIM, DO YOU KNOW WHY THIS COUNTRY IS NAMED EL PIETRO AND ITS CAPITAL IS NAMED SAN PIETRO?
DUNNO, KID. PROBABLY JUST TO CONFUSE THE VIRTUOUS.
REMINDS ME OF THE TIME RACER AND I RE-LETTERED ALL THE STREET SIGNS IN CASABLANCA.
SEE, THERE WAS THIS STUCK-UP SWEDE WHO CLAIMED HE KNEW THE CITY LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND. WELL, ONE NIGHT WE...
UM... EXCUSE ME, WILD JIM...
...I THINK WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

BRRRARP!
YIPE! THESE GUYS ARE SERIOUS! HOLD TIGHT, KID!
BRRRAARRRP!
BRRRAARP!
I CAN'T SHAKE HIM!
BRPAP!
BRRAP!
BBRRRARRP!
MIDAS
GOOD THING THESE OLD CANVAS KITES DON'T HAVE MANY VITAL AREAS! HERE, KID-- TRY AND SCARE 'EM OFF WITH THIS. BUY US SOME TIME!
IT'S SO FAR AWAY... HADJI ALWAYS SAYS, "IF YOU WANT TO HIT THE TARGET, BECOME THE TARGET."
BRRAAAARP!
BLAM!
BLAM!

SKKRAK!
I THINK YOU GOT 'IM, KID!
FOOSH!
KA-FRASSHH!
PRETTY RIGHTEOUS SHOOTING, KID! GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE!
HOLD ON TO YOUR LUNCH! THIS IS AN OLD TRICK, BUT MAYBE THEY AIN'T HEARD OF IT IN EL PIETRO!
BRRAP! BRAAAPPP!!
OH-OH... THAT GUY'S REAL MAD. WONDER IF IT WAS SOMETHING WE SAID?
BRAPP! BRAPPP!

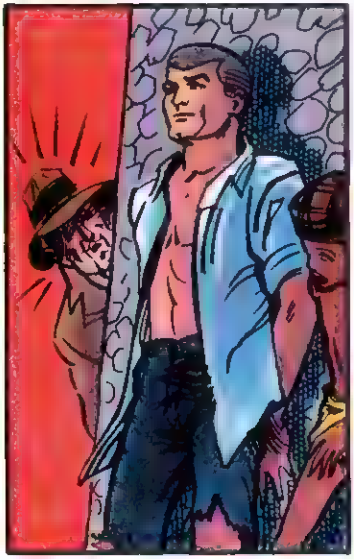
BRAP!
BRRAP!
HERE'S WHERE WE LOOK REAL CUTE, IF WE DON'T TEAR APART!
OH, WELL... YOU ONLY DIE ONCE!
SKRASHH--
KA-POOM!
I DON'T SEE ANY MORE OF THEM.
JUST AS WELL. I THINK WE JUST USED UP ABOUT TWELVE YEARS' WORTH OF LUCK!
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT THEY WERE PROTECTING.
NOTHING...
NO, WAIT! THAT STATUE DOWN THERE. IT'S...
YEP. OUR OLD PAL--CHUCKLES! SOME COINCIDENCE, EH?
AND FRESH TIRE TRACKS! LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND WHAT WE CAME TO FIND!


LET'S GO TELL THE OTHERS.
I'VE GOT A HELICOPTER AT THE AIRFIELD, AND I SAW A LEVEL SPACE BACK THERE WHERE WE CAN LAND, COME NIGHTFALL.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
I GUESS WE DON'T NEED THESE DISGUISES ANYMORE. DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME WILD JIM AND I DISGUISED OURSELVES AS POLAR BEARS AND...
RACE... I THINK WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED.

WHO?
BACK THERE. IN THE TRENCHCOAT. HE WAS WATCHING US AT THE MINISTRY.

QUICK, DOWN THIS WAY!



OKAY, BUSTER! NOW **WHO** ARE YOU AND WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?

PLEASE, DO NOT HURT ME!
I AM PROFESSOR BARTELLI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MILAN!
OH-OH.
SOMEWHAT LATER, BACK AT THE HOTEL...
IT IS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING. I CAME HERE TO...
RACER! YOU HAVE THE KEY? WE'RE LOCKED OUT!
AND DR. QUEST DOESN'T ANSWER? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
DR. QUEST! DR. QUEST, ARE YOU IN HERE?
WHAM!
I'M... ALL RIGHT... REALLY, I...
BENTON! MY GOD, WHO DID THIS?
I DON'T THINK THEY WERE FRIENDS...
MARIO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I WAS... SPYING ON YOU, BENTON.
DAD! ARE YOU HURT, DAD?
I'M ALL RIGHT, SON. DON'T WORRY.
YOU SEE, BENTON, THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MORE I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD FIND SOME EVIDENCE HERE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CASE, SO I CAME TO...
...CHECK UP ON ME? DON'T WORRY, MARIO. WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS HERE THAN SCIENTIFIC JEALOUSY.
YOU SAY YOU WERE SHOT AT?
YES, SIR. MY GUESS IS THAT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CULT IS NEAR THE STATUE. IF WE GO THERE AT NIGHT, WE CAN BLOW UP THE WHOLE WORKS.
VERY WELL, BUT THIS TIME GO IN ARMED. THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS.
WE'LL NEED THE BOYS TO ACT AS LOOKOUTS.
AND, PROFESSOR, WOULD YOU MIND STAYING HERE TO LOOK AFTER DR. QUEST?
OF COURSE NOT...
...IF HE DOES NOT MIND LOOKING AFTER ME.
BANDIT, YOU STAY AND GUARD DAD, TOO.

BE CAREFUL, JONNY.
AW, DAD, I'M ALWAYS CAREFUL!
DO NOT WORRY, BENTON. THEY WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'M NOT WORRIED, EXCEPT...
LET'S TRY TO CONTACT COLONEL DIAZ ONE MORE TIME. I WONDER WHERE HE COULD BE?
...SO ANYWAY, THIS BUREAU CHIEF GOT UP IN THE MORNING AND THERE, STANDING PLACIDLY IN HIS BATHTUB, IS A FULLY GROWN CAMEL, DRESSED IN HIS PAJAMAS...
... AND PAINTED YELLOW!
WELL, THE YELLOW PAINT WAS YOUR IDEA. YOU TALKED ME INTO THAT.
GOSH, WERE YOU REALLY ARRESTED?
NAW. HE CALMED DOWN AND LET US OUT... AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS!
YOU KNOW, WILD JIM, SOMETHING HARJI SAID HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME. HE SAID THIS WHOLE CASE WAS TOO SIMPLE...
RACER, YOU KNOW MOST CASES ARE SIMPLE, ONCE YOU GET A GRIP ON 'EM.
WELL, YEAH, BUT...

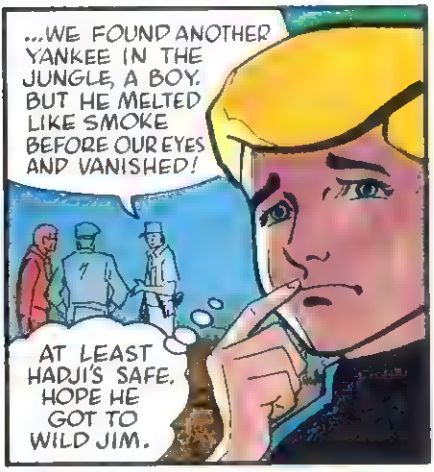
HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I EVER TELL YOU KIDS HOW RACER GOT HIS NICKNAME?
NO.
WELL, SEE, THE RACER, HE WAS ALWAYS BUGS FOR SPORTS CARS. THERE WAS THIS GIRL, PRETTY GIRL, TOO, AND HE SAID TO HER...
THAT STORY IS A LIE! IT WAS A LIE FROM THE DAY YOU MADE IT UP, AND IT ONLY GETS WORSE EVERY TIME...
...SO HE SAYS, "LET'S YOU N' ME RACE. IF I WIN, I GET A DATE. IF YOU WIN, YOU GET MY NEW CAR." WELL, SIR...
...AND SHE DROVE OFF, LEAVING HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
NOW, DON'T FORGET TO WRITE, GUYS!
YOU JUST STAY AVAILABLE IN CASE WE NEED THE CAVALRY!

OKAY, THE CAMP SHOULD BE OVER IN THIS DIRECTION. TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY...
OH, AND KIDS? YOU DO KNOW HE JUST MADE UP THAT STORY, DON'T YOU?
OH, YES, RACE.
SURE, RACE, SURE.
HADJI, YOU STAY HERE. IF IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN TROUBLE, RUN LIKE THE DICKENS BACK TO WILD JIM.
I WILL, RACE.
WE MUST BE ALMOST TO THE CAMPGROUND BY THIS TIME. BUT IT'S SO QUIET... I WONDER...
WOW! LOOK AT THAT THING! IT MUST BE TWENTY FEET HIGH!

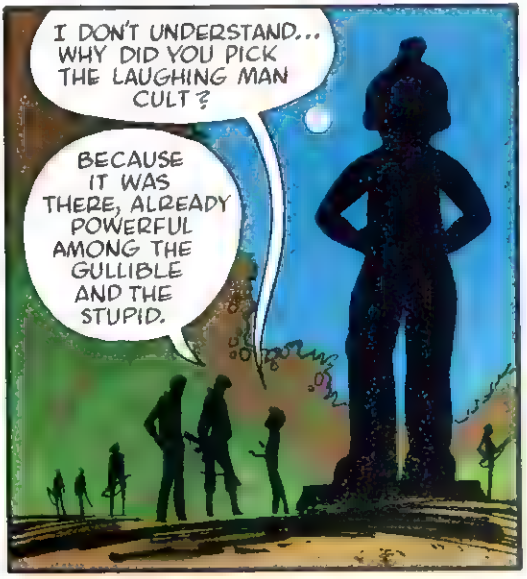
IT'S BIG ALL RIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT STONE. IT'S PLASTIC.
AND THERE'S A TRAP DOOR DOWN HERE.
AND ONLY ONE CRATE OF GUNS LEFT. ALMOST LIKE A DISPLAY.
IT'S LIKE THE PLACE HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR MONTHS.
I WONDER WHERE THEY ALL WENT...?
GASP AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS STILL HERE, RACE.
MY GOD!
MINISTER VARDEZ!

HE'S BEEN SHOT, AND NOT TOO LONG AGO.
THIS IS JUST TOO SIMPLE.
RUN, HADJI! GET OUT NOW! IT'S A TRICK!
AH, SEÑOR BANNON. SO YOU HAVE SEEN THROUGH MY LITTLE PLOY.
JUST AS WELL. IT WILL BE SO MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN YOUR BODIES ARE FOUND NEXT TO HIS.
COLONEL DIAZ!
SHOT BY THE BRAVE NORTEAMERICANOS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES. SHOULD BE WORTH ANOTHER MILLION OR SO IN AID MONEY.
SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT...THE MILITARY AID. THERE NEVER WERE ANY TERRORISTS.
REGRETTABLY, NO.
MINE IS A POOR COUNTRY, WITH VERY LITTLE ANYONE COULD WANT.
BUT IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PAY WELL TO BE RID OF A BAND OF SUBVERSIVES... SO I INVENTED SOME.

AND THE VILLAGERS WHO'VE BEEN SHOT?
WHAT ARE A FEW PEASANTS MORE OR LESS?
COLONEL...


...WE FOUND ANOTHER YANKEE IN THE JUNGLE, A BOY. BUT HE MELTED LIKE SMOKE BEFORE OUR EYES AND VANISHED!
AT LEAST HADJI'S SAFE. HOPE HE GOT TO WILD JIM.

NO MATTER. BY THE TIME HE RETURNS THESE TWO WILL BE DEAD AND THE SCENE SET.
I'VE GOT TO STALL FOR TIME.
COLONEL?

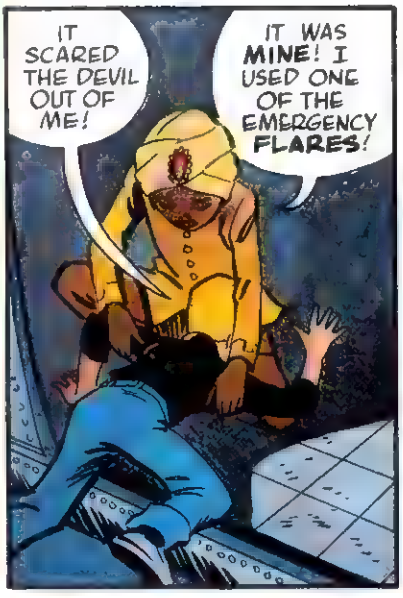

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY DID YOU PICK THE LAUGHING MAN CULT?
BECAUSE IT WAS THERE, ALREADY POWERFUL AMONG THE GULLIBLE AND THE STUPID.

AND WHAT IF HE SHOULD RETURN, LIKE PEOPLE SAY?

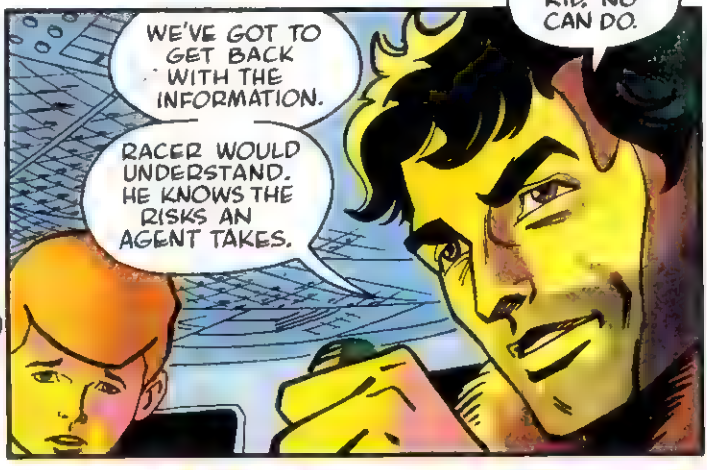
THAT, MY FRIEND, IS A LEGEND... BUT SHOULD IT HAPPEN...
COLONEL, LOOK!

COME ON, PAL. TIME TO GO!
LOOK, JONNY! THE COPTER! GOOD OLD WILD JIM!
THEY ARE ESCAPING, YOU FOOLS! SHOOT THEM! SHOOT THEM!
GUNFIRE'S FORCING THE COPTER UP... ONE CHANCE!
BBRRARRP!
HERE YOU GO, PAL... ALLEY...
BBRRARRP!
...OOP!

HOW DID YOU LIKE THE COMET?


IT SCARED THE DEVIL OUT OF ME!
IT WAS MINE! I USED ONE OF THE EMERGENCY FLARES!

IT WAS GREAT, HADJI!
WILD JIM, WHY AREN'T WE HEADED BACK? WE HAVE TO HELP RACE.
SORRY, KID. NO CAN DO.


WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK WITH THE INFORMATION.
RACER WOULD UNDERSTAND. HE KNOWS THE RISKS AN AGENT TAKES.

BUT... HE SAVED MY LIFE... HE'S YOUR FRIEND...
THIS IS WAR, AND IN A WAR...

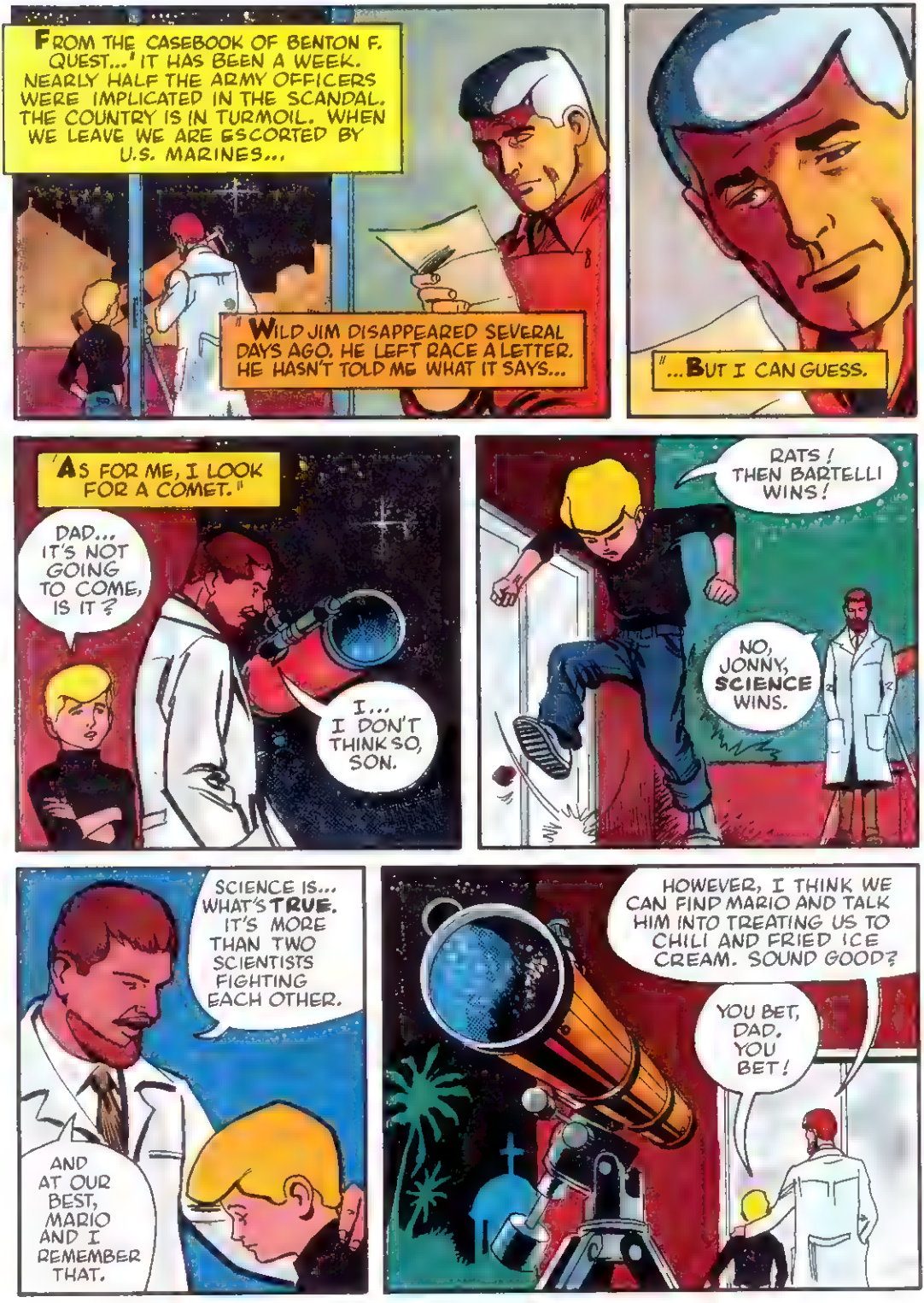
ALL'S FAIR. NOW TURN THIS SHIP AROUND.

KID, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE JUST CAN'T...
YOU WERE IN ON IT, WEREN'T YOU? YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN AGENT HERE ALL THESE MONTHS AND NOT KNOW THERE WEREN'T ANY REBELS!
HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY YOU?
A LOT.
Y'KNOW... THE RACER HAD IT WRONG... THERE'S NO "MIDAS TOUCH"... EVERYTHING I TOUCH TURNS TO GARBAGE.
BUT ON THIS DEAL, I MAKE THE KIND OF MONEY BANKS MAKE... AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FILE A REPORT!
TURN THIS THING AROUND.
!
FUNNY THING...

...I'M SURPRISED RACER DIDN'T TEACH YOU THAT MOVE. IT'S REAL USEFUL.
YOU CAN'T LET HIM DIE! YOU WERE POLAR BEARS TOGETHER.
HE'S YOUR FRIEND! THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT HIM!
DO YOU HAVE ANY LAST REQUESTS, SEÑOR?
SURE.
LET ME HOLD THE GUN.
SORRY, I WILL AT LEAST HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF...
WUP
WUP
WUP
WHAT IS THAT IDIOT DOING? HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO COME BACK!
COME ON, RACE! RUN!

DON'T RUN, YOU FOOLS! SHOOT HIM! SHOOT HIM!
WUP -P
P
WUP WUP

SHOOT--
AAHHH!
BLAM!
OH, WELL... WHO WANTS T'BE A MILLIONAIRE?



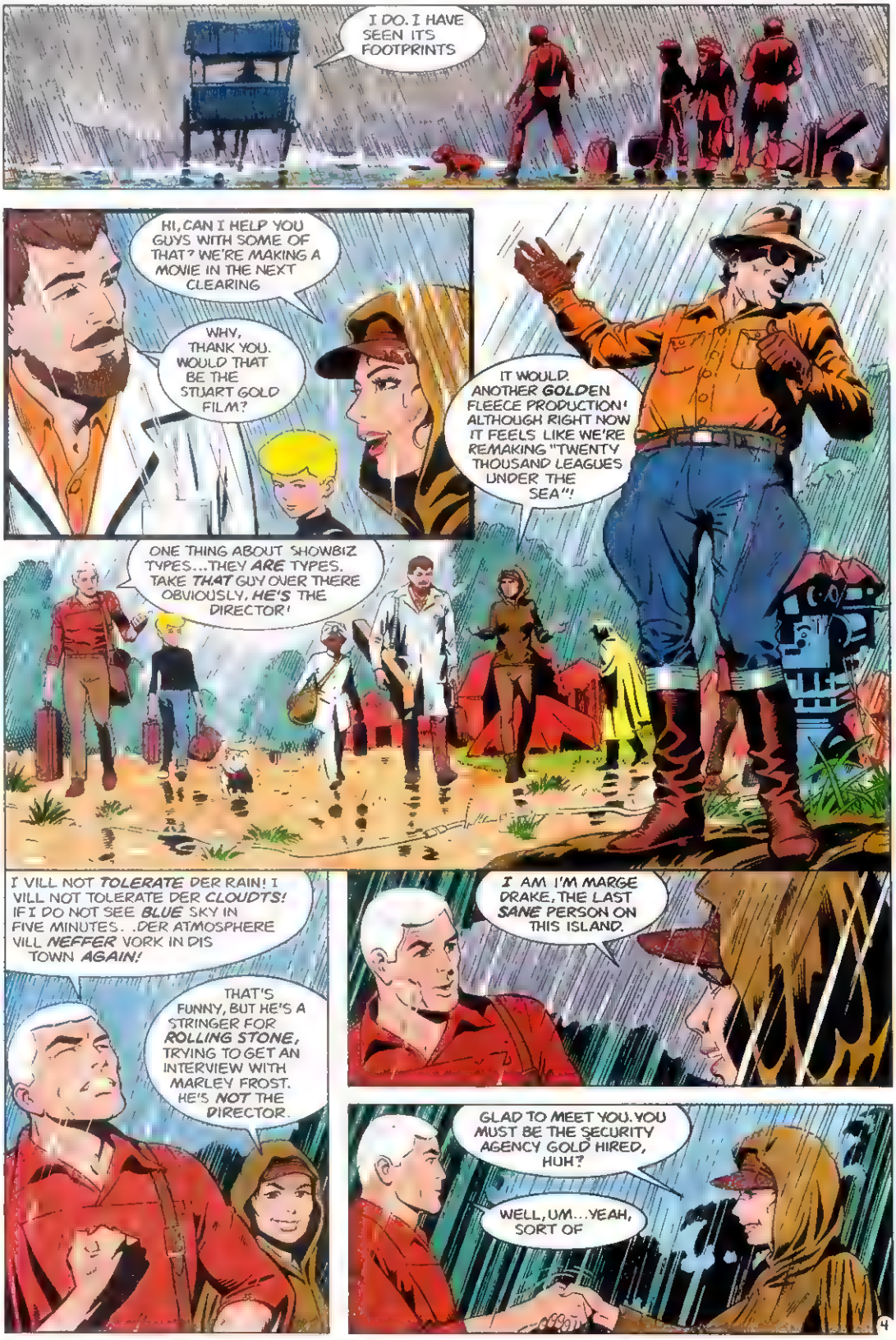
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS • Writer/ **MARC HEMPEL** • Penciller, Letterer
MARK WHEATLEY • Inker, Colorist/ **KATHRYN MAYER** • Letterer, Colorist/ **DIANA SCHUTZ** • Editor

BRRRIINNGGG-TING...
BRRRIINNGGG-TING...
BRRRIINNGGG-TING...
KLIK-PEEP.. YOU HAVE REACHED SPECIAL SECURITY LINE TWO-FOUR-NINER QST. GO AHEAD, PLEASE.
WHA -? THE SPECIAL SECURITY LINE? MR. PRESIDENT?
HI, BENTON! WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT'S STUART
STUART? STUART GOLD? HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?
OH, YEAH... IT'S SOME BIG SECURITY THING, RIGHT? ONLY USE IN CASE OF NUCLEAR WAR AND LIKE THAT? SORRY IF I SCARED YOU, MAN, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT!
STUART, IT'S THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING...
IS IT? OH, YOU MEAN OUT THERE. TIME ZONES ARE A TRIP, MAN. LISTEN, BENTON, I'M IN A HEAP OF TROUBLE. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO WRECK THIS MOVIE AND SOMEBODY'S GONNA GET KILLED. I NEED HELP FAST. CAN YOU PITCH IN?
WELL, STUART, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU IN TROUBLE, BUT...
HEY, GREAT, MAN. KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU. AND THIS IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY... INTRIGUE, HIGH TECH, MONSTERS! YOU'LL PROBABLY CRACK IT ON YOUR LUNCH HOUR. I'LL FILL YOU IN WHEN YOU GET TO THE ISLAND. TICKETS ARE AT THE AIRPORT. THANKS, PAL. CIAO.
CLICK
WAIT A SECOND, STUART! I DIDN'T SAY... WHAT MONSTERS? STUART, DON'T YOU DARE HANG UP!
OH, STUART...

MARLEY FROST is here to stay

WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS · STORY
TOM YEATES · PENCILS
ADKINS & FRIENDS · INKS
PINAHA · LETTERS
KEN FEDUNIEWICZ · COLORS
DIANA SCHUTZ · EDITS

THEY'RE SPOILED, KID. ACTORS AND ACTRESSES ARE LIKE NAUGHTY CHILDREN. THEY HAVE NO SELF-CONTROL, NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY! YOU CAN'T TRUST 'EM!
SEE, THEY LIVE BY THEIR EMOTIONS, SO THEY DON'T REASON LIKE WE DO. IF THEY DON'T HAVE A SCRIPT IN FRONT OF THEM, THEY CAN'T MAKE A SENTENCE!
AND GREEDY? THEY'RE ALWAYS GROVELING AFTER THE NEXT JOB, PUSHING OTHER ACTORS OUT OF THE WAY. THEY GENERALLY DON'T HAVE REAL PERSONALITIES, THEY JUST APE WHATEVER CHARACTER THEY PLAYED LAST
AND INSECURE? DON'T GET ME STARTED ON INSECURE! THEY CAN'T EVEN...
GOSH, RACE! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU KNEW SO MANY ACTORS!
WELL, ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW ANY ACTORS.
THEN, HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MANY PERSONAL THINGS ABOUT THEM?
COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
I AM SORRY, BUT I CAN GO NO FURTHER. THIS IS THE PLACE OF THE MONSTER.
THE MONSTER? YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE ONE EXISTS, DO YOU?
THIS END UP


I DO. I HAVE SEEN ITS FOOTPRINTS
HI, CAN I HELP YOU GUYS WITH SOME OF THAT? WE'RE MAKING A MOVIE IN THE NEXT CLEARING
WHY, THANK YOU. WOULD THAT BE THE STUART GOLD FILM?
IT WOULD. ANOTHER GOLDEN FLEECE PRODUCTION! ALTHOUGH RIGHT NOW IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE REMAKING "TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA"!
ONE THING ABOUT SHOWBIZ TYPES...THEY ARE TYPES. TAKE THAT GUY OVER THERE OBVIOUSLY, HE'S THE DIRECTOR!
I VILL NOT TOLERATE DER RAIN! I VILL NOT TOLERATE DER CLOUDTS! IF I DO NOT SEE BLUE SKY IN FIVE MINUTES. .DER ATMOSPHERE VILL NEFFER VORK IN DIS TOWN AGAIN!
THAT'S FUNNY, BUT HE'S A STRINGER FOR ROLLING STONE, TRYING TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH MARLEY FROST. HE'S NOT THE DIRECTOR.
I AM I'M MARGE DRAKE, THE LAST SANE PERSON ON THIS ISLAND.
GLAD TO MEET YOU. YOU MUST BE THE SECURITY AGENCY GOLD HIRED, HUH?
WELL, UM...YEAH, SORT OF

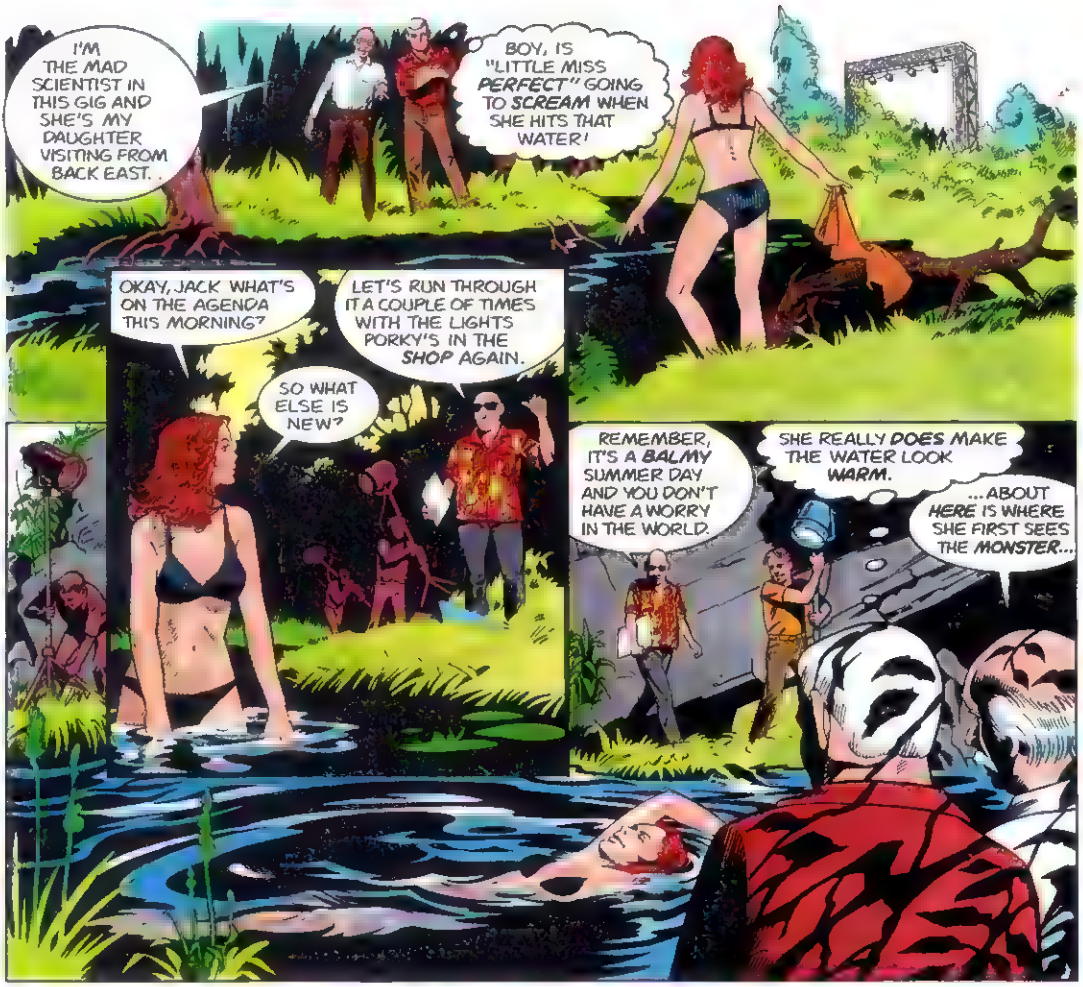
LOOK, IDIOT! I'M STANDING OUT IN THE RAIN! EITHER DECIDE WHERE THE MARK IS OR FORGET IT!
OOPS... EXCUSE ME. ANOTHER FIRE TO PUT OUT.
AND THIS SCRIPT READS LIKE IT WAS PUT TOGETHER BY A DRUNKEN MONKEY! STREEP COULDN'T READ THIS! I WANT THE WHOLE THING REWRITTEN! AND A NEW ROOF ON MY TRAILER!
NOW, MARLEY... YOU KNOW WE'RE WORKING ON THE SCRIPT. AND EVERYBODY'S SICK OF THE RAIN. IF YOU'LL JUST...
"EVERYBODY" IS NOT THE STAR OF THIS ACCIDENT OF A PICTURE! I'M THE STAR, AND I'M SICK OF BEING TREATED LIKE ONE OF THE GRIPS!
COME ON, MARLEY, LIGHTEN UP! WE CAN DO THE WALK-THROUGH ANOTHER TIME, BUT YOU KNOW WE'RE OVER TIME NOW.
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM! MINE IS BEING TRAPPED IN THIS SEWER WITH A BUNCH OF INCOMPETENTS! I'M OUTTA HERE!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU BIG MUSCLE-BOUND GASHEAD!
MY PLEASURE, SWEETHEART!
WHAT A HOLLYWOOD PRIMA DONNA!
GOSH, ISN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR HER TO GO OFF ALONE LIKE THAT?
I WOULDN'T TRY TO STOP HER, IF I WERE YOU! BESIDES, MARLEY GOES WALKING EVERY NIGHT-- IT'S JUST HER WAY OF BLOWING OFF STEAM.

IT'S BEEN RAINING FOUR DAYS NOW AND WE'RE ALL WOUND A BIT TIGHT. THIS IS JACK NILES, MY ASSISTANT.
HIYA.
AND THIS IS FOSTER CAME. FOSTER HANDLES SPECIAL EFFECTS. WE'VE BEEN HAVING SOME TROUBLE WITH THOSE.
YOU BET WE HAVE. OUR EQUIPMENT IS EITHER TOO OLD, BROKEN, OR RUSTED THROUGH. THIS BLASTED RAIN HASN'T HELPED EITHER. WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE FIX-IT GUY?
WELL... I SUPPOSE I AM, BUT...
GOOD, 'CAUSE THE KID I HAD HELPING ME QUIT THREE DAYS AGO. TWO OF THE TRUCKS ARE BROKEN DOWN, THE MAIN GENERATOR'S ON THE FRITZ AND THE WIND MACHINE...
I THINK THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE. WHERE IS STUART GOLD?
IN L.A., OF COURSE. HE NEVER VISITS LOCATIONS. BUT HE SENT THIS TELEGRAM.
"SENDING CRACK REPAIR AND SECURITY CREW. STOP. THEY WILL FILL YOU IN WHEN THEY GET THERE. STOP. HOPE FILMING IS ON SCHEDULE. STOP. GOOD LUCK. STOP. STUART."
OH, STUART...

COME ON IN HERE, FOLKS. IF THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE, WE CAN DISCUSS IT OUT OF THE RAIN. THIS IS THE SET FOR THE "MAD DOCTOR'S" OFFICE.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON THIS MOVIE?
ABOUT THREE MONTHS-- AND WE'RE ONLY HALF THROUGH. WE SHOULD'VE BEEN OFF THIS ISLAND BY NOW, BUT THERE'S BEEN ONE STUPID ACCIDENT AFTER ANOTHER. JACK'S ONLY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BECAUSE MY FIRST ASSISTANT BROKE HIS LEG
WHY ARE YOU HERE? DO YOU OWE GOLD A PICTURE, TOO?
A PICTURE? NO, NOT REALLY.
THAT'S WHY MOST OF US ARE HERE. WE OWED GOLD ONE OR TWO JOBS ON A PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACT.
ANYHOW, IF YOU CAN HELP, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT. I'VE GOT A SHOT AT A PIECE OF A MINI-SERIES, IF I CAN GET BACK IN FOUR WEEKS. I KNOW STUART GOLD CAN ROPE PEOPLE INTO THINGS, BUT...
WELL, WE ARE HERE AND...
TERRIFIC! IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN START ON SOMETHING TONIGHT. THERE'S SOME ELECTRONIC STUFF IN THE BACK.
THAT IS MORE MY FIELD. I...
I...I...
SURE ARE A LOT OF 'EM, HUH, DAD?

DAD? IS STUART GOLD THE GUY YOU KNEW IN COLLEGE... THE ONE WHO USED TO GET YOU TO WRITE HIS TERM PAPERS FOR HIM?
YEP. STUART WAS MY ROOMMATE DID I TELL YOU HE ONCE ENROLLED AN ALLIGATOR IN THE POETRY APPRECIATION CLASS AND THEN MADE ME TAKE THE BLAME?
I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE STILL FRIENDS WITH HIM!
FRANKLY, SON, AT THE MOMENT IT'S A BIT BLURRY TO ME, TOO. FRIENDSHIP IS A HARD THING TO EXPLAIN. ASK ME IN THE MORNING.
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL LOOK BRIGHTER IN THE MORNING...
IN THE MORNING..
IT SURE LOOKS MORE CHEERFUL IN THE SUNLIGHT, HUH, DAD?
THAT IT DOES, JONNY. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING READY TO SHOOT A SCENE. MAYBE WE...
DR. QUEST! THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE! WE CAN'T MAKE PORKY'S LEG WORK.

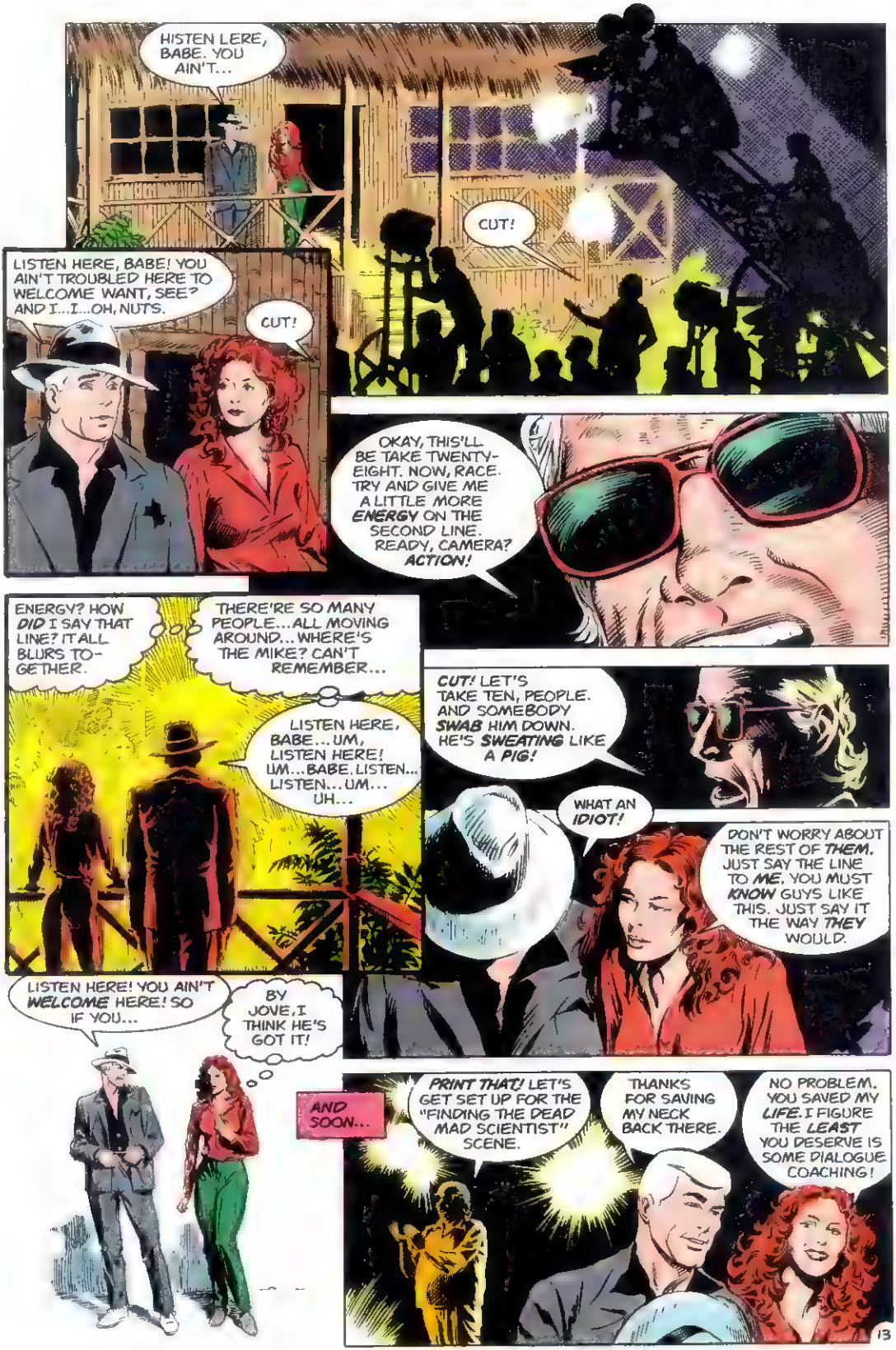
PORKY'S LEG? WHO'S PORKY?
OVER THERE. TALL, DARK, AND PREHISTORIC.
IT CAN WALK, SWIM, AND SNORT, JUST LIKE A REAL...ER...MONSTER. WE BUILT IT FROM THE NATIVES' DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR LEGENDS.
IT WORKED FINE IN THE STUDIO, BUT OUT HERE... IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPARE PARTS!
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE GUTS. THERE MUST BE A SHORT IN THE SERVO-MOTOR IN THE ANKLE. OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO LIE ON YOUR BACK IN THE MUD TO GET TO IT.
SIGH OF COURSE
BRRR! THIS WATER'S LIKE ICE. I HOPE NONE OF THE STUNT MEN HAVE TO FALL IN HERE TODAY
NOPE, NONE OF THE STUNT MEN...
...JUST HER.
MARLEY FROST!


I'M THE MAD SCIENTIST IN THIS GIG AND SHE'S MY DAUGHTER VISITING FROM BACK EAST. .
BOY, IS "LITTLE MISS *PERFECT*" GOING TO *SCREAM* WHEN SHE HITS THAT WATER!
OKAY, JACK WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA THIS MORNING?
LET'S RUN THROUGH IT A COUPLE OF TIMES WITH THE LIGHTS PORKY'S IN THE *SHOP* AGAIN.
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
REMEMBER, IT'S A *BALMY* SUMMER DAY AND YOU DON'T HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD.
SHE REALLY *DOES* MAKE THE WATER LOOK *WARM*.
...ABOUT *HERE* IS WHERE SHE FIRST SEES THE *MONSTER*...

"...ASSUMING THEY EVER GET IT *FIXED*."
I'VE *ALMOST* GOT IT. LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF CABLE INSULATION WEDGED IN THE JOINT...
SKRREEE-HORRRRK!
DAD! LOOK OUT!

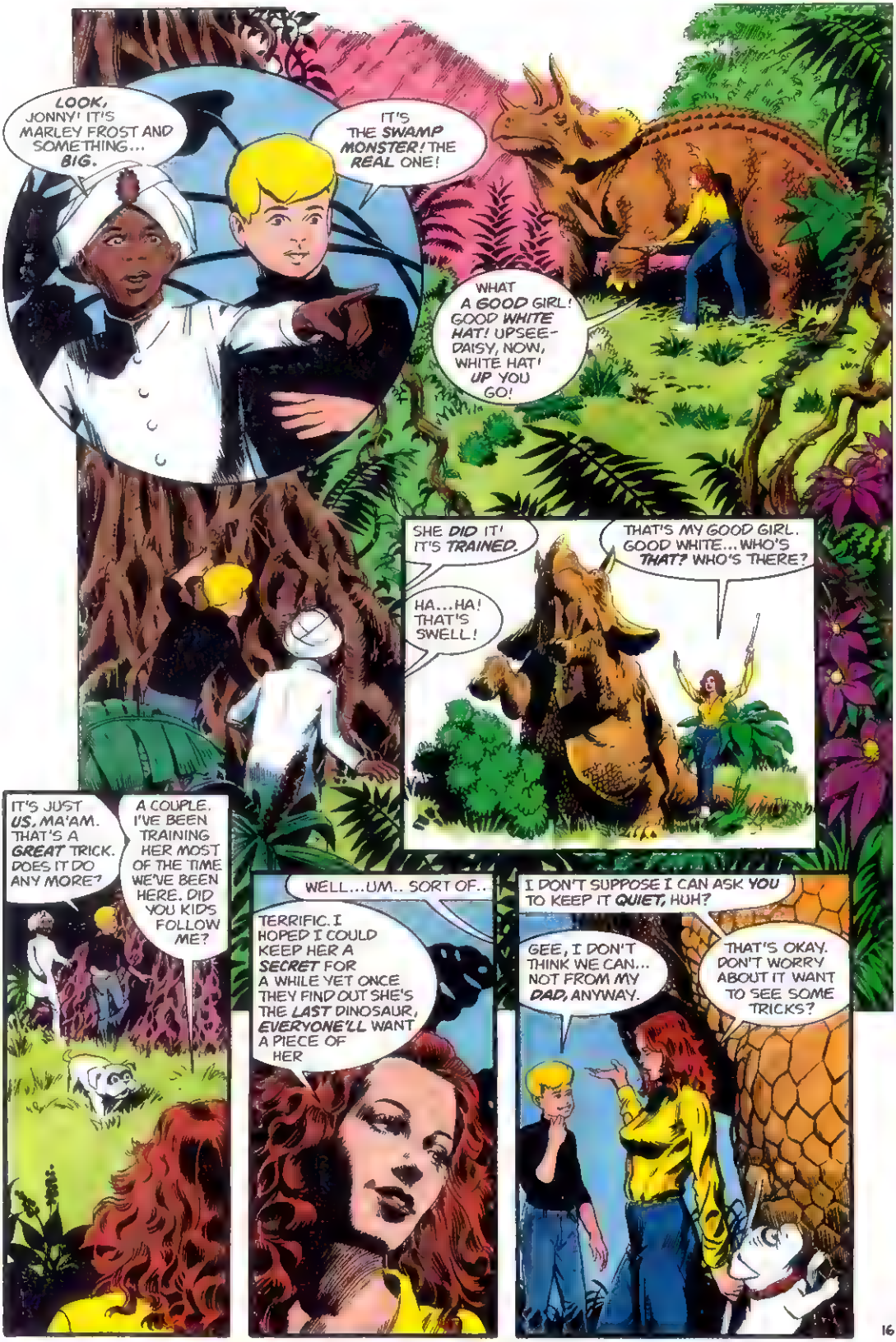
OH-OH. I DON'T THINK THIS IS IN THE SCRIPT!
IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR THE LAGOON! GOT TO CATCH IT!
GREAT. NOW THAT I'VE GOT IT, WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?
HOPE THE DOC CAN FORGIVE ME FOR THIS!
SPLITTRR-
FFAKKS
WHEW... PRETTY DECENT RIDING, COWBOY!
WE AIM TO PLEASE.

WELL, THAT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF DAYS' DELAY. YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN A PUPPETEER, I'VE DONE IMPROV, I'VE WORKED WITH TRAINED ELEPHANTS... AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A SHOW JINXED LIKE THIS ONE.
MAYBE IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS. DR. QUEST'S A REAL WHIZ AT FIXING THINGS.
IT LOOKS LIKE A SHORT BURNED OUT THIS PANEL... OR IT COULD HAVE BEEN A POWER SURGE OR MAYBE...
HE DOESN'T LOOK IN CONTROL RIGHT NOW.
HE'S HAVING A HARD DAY.
HE'S GOT IT ROUGH? THE SECOND GANGSTER GOT HIS LEG BROKEN IN THAT MELEE. NOW WHERE AM I GOING TO FIND A BRUTAL, CRIMINAL TYPE ON SUCH SHORT...?
SAY, RACE, OLD PAL. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE IN THE MOVIES?
ME? I... BUT I CAN'T... I DON'T...
COME ON, MUSCLES. IT'LL BE FUN.
WELL, I GUESS I COULD...
HOORAY! RACE IS GOING TO BE IN THE MOVIE!
"LISTEN HERE, BABE. YOU AIN'T WELCOME HERE, SEE? IF YOU DON'T WANT TROUBLE, YOU'D BETTER MOVE ALONG!" NOT BAD. ONLY THREE LINES AND I'VE GOT THEM DOWN COLD. HOW HARD CAN THIS BE?
OKAY, FOLKS. LET'S TRY ONE!


HISTEN LERE, BABE. YOU AIN'T...
CUT!
LISTEN HERE, BABE! YOU AIN'T TROUBLED HERE TO WELCOME WANT, SEE? AND I...I...OH, NUTS.
CUT!
OKAY, THIS'LL BE TAKE TWENTY-EIGHT. NOW, RACE. TRY AND GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE ENERGY ON THE SECOND LINE. READY, CAMERA? ACTION!
ENERGY? HOW DID I SAY THAT LINE? IT ALL BLURS TO-GETHER.
THERE'RE SO MANY PEOPLE...ALL MOVING AROUND...WHERE'S THE MIKE? CAN'T REMEMBER...
LISTEN HERE, BABE...UM, LISTEN HERE! UM...BABE. LISTEN... LISTEN...UM... UH...
CUT! LET'S TAKE TEN, PEOPLE. AND SOMEBODY SWAB HIM DOWN. HE'S SWEATING LIKE A PIG!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE REST OF THEM. JUST SAY THE LINE TO ME. YOU MUST KNOW GUYS LIKE THIS. JUST SAY IT THE WAY THEY WOULD.
LISTEN HERE! YOU AIN'T WELCOME HERE! SO IF YOU...
BY JOVE, I THINK HE'S GOT IT!
AND SOON...
PRINT THAT! LET'S GET SET UP FOR THE "FINDING THE DEAD MAD SCIENTIST" SCENE.
THANKS FOR SAVING MY NECK BACK THERE.
NO PROBLEM. YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I FIGURE THE LEAST YOU DESERVE IS SOME DIALOGUE COACHING!

LET'S GO FIND MADAME DIRECTOR AND GET YOUR NEXT LINES.
HA! HA! VERY FUNNY!
YEAH, KIDS. THIS IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS!
HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU.
WOW! JUST LIKE STEVEN SPIELBERG!
YES! MOST AMAZING! YOU CAN HARDLY SEE THE CABLE!
IS THIS HOW PEOPLE ARE MADE TO FLY IN THE MOVIES?
WELL, YEAH, BUT MOSTLY IT'S A SAFETY THING WE USE IT TO HOLD AN ACTOR WHO, SAY, HAS TO CLIMB UP A DRAIN PIPE... OR JUMP BETWEEN BUILDINGS SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE WHAT PEOPLE COME TO SEE, BUT IT'S JUST HARD WORK, PERSISTENCE, AND GRINDING DETAIL.
RIGHT, DOC?
RIGHT YOU ARE, FOSTER. TURN THE HOIST MOTOR ON ONE MORE TIME, WILL YOU? I THINK I'VE FOUND THE LEAK.
SPLOOSH!!

GOSH, JONNY. I DID NOT REALIZE YOUR FATHER EVEN KNEW SUCH WORDS!
HE SURE WAS MAD, WASN'T HE?
THE MONSTER IS MINE... MINE, DO YOU HEAR? I DISCOVERED IT AND I WILL DESTROY...!
CUT!
LOOK, C.G., IT'S JUST NOT WORKING FOR ME. TOO OLD-TIMEY... CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE ME A STRAIGHT READ? WITHOUT THE GARBAGE?
THAT WAS A STRAIGHT READ... AS STRAIGHT AS I CAN GET AND STILL BE IN CHARACTER. HE'S A DRAMATIC GUY. DO YOU WANT ME TO DRY HIM OUT COMPLETELY?
I WANT YOU TO TRY IT MY WAY ONCE!
STUART GOLD TOLD ME I'D BE FREE TO INTERPRET...
TOO BAD! BECAUSE GOLD GAVE ME TOTAL AUTONOMY ON THIS SET! NOW, READ THE DAMN LINE!
NO! YOU READ THE LINE! I'M SLEEPY! I'M GOING TO MY TRAILER TO LIE DOWN!
HADJI... LOOK!
IT'S MARLEY FROST WHERE IS SHE GOING?
LET'S FOLLOW HER SHE ISN'T TOO FAR AHEAD.
SOMEWHAT LATER
IS THIS WHERE MARLEY FROST DISAPPEARS TO EACH EVENING?
GOSH, HADJI... ALL THIS LOOKS ALIKE TO ME. I'M AFRAID WE'RE LOST.
WAIT. I THINK THERE'S A CLEARING UP AHEAD...


LOOK, JONNY! IT'S MARLEY FROST AND SOMETHING... BIG.
IT'S THE SWAMP MONSTER! THE REAL ONE!
WHAT A GOOD GIRL! GOOD WHITE HAT! UPSEE-DAISY, NOW, WHITE HAT! UP YOU GO!
SHE DID IT! IT'S TRAINED.
THAT'S MY GOOD GIRL. GOOD WHITE... WHO'S THAT? WHO'S THERE?
HA...HA! THAT'S SWELL!
IT'S JUST US, MA'AM. THAT'S A GREAT TRICK. DOES IT DO ANY MORE?
A COUPLE. I'VE BEEN TRAINING HER MOST OF THE TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE. DID YOU KIDS FOLLOW ME?
WELL...UM.. SORT OF..
TERRIFIC. I HOPED I COULD KEEP HER A SECRET FOR A WHILE YET ONCE THEY FIND OUT SHE'S THE LAST DINOSAUR, EVERYONE'LL WANT A PIECE OF HER
I DON'T SUPPOSE I CAN ASK YOU TO KEEP IT QUIET, HUH?
GEE, I DON'T THINK WE CAN... NOT FROM MY DAD, ANYWAY.
THAT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT WANT TO SEE SOME TRICKS?

ROLL OVER, WHITE HAT. 'AT'S A GIRL!
NOW, SAY YOUR PRAYERS.
SPEAK, GIRL! SPEAK!
BRROOOOOOOO
WHY DO YOU CALL HER "WHITE HAT"?
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW PRODUCERS TALK ABOUT HEROES AND VILLAINS... "WHO'S THE WHITE HAT? WHO'S THE BLACK HAT?" WHEN I SAW HER, I KNEW SHE WAS JUST ABOUT THE PUREST, MOST UNTOUCHED CREATURE AROUND.
ORIGINALLY I WAS GOING TO TRAIN HER, MAKE HER A PART OF A STAGE ACT-- GET PEOPLE TO NOTICE ME AS SOMETHING ELSE THAN "THE QUEEN OF THE C-MOVIES"... BUT...
I JUST COULDN'T DO IT. SHE'S THE LAST OF HER KIND. THERE'S SOMETHING LONELY AND TRAGIC ABOUT THAT. IT OUGHT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY SILLY CAREER...
THATTA GIRL! WAS I GETTING THAT MAUDLIN? TIME FOR ME TO GO TO SLEEP THEN. C'MON, GUYS. BACK TO THE SALT MINES!
BRROOOOOOOO

HI, CLYDE. HAVE YOU SEEN HADJI OR JONNY ANYWHERE?
NO, NOT LATELY. COME ON IN. YOU WEREN'T BAD TODAY.
DON'T KID A KIDDER WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
TODAY'S RUSHES. WE VIDEOTAPE AT THE SAME TIME WE FILM. SAVES TIME. THE FILM ITSELF IS AIRLIFTED BACK TO CALIFORNIA. MARGE DRAKE SENT THIS OVER WITH A NOTE. "CHECK THIS OUT, C.G. MAYBE WE WERE BOTH RIGHT. M."
I WAS WAY TOO BROAD. I'VE BEEN DOING MAINLY AD WORK AND VOICE-OVERS, AND I'M OUT OF PRACTICE FOR FILM.
THESE LOOK LIKE DIGITALIS. DO YOU HAVE A HEART CONDITION?
MINOR DON'T SPREAD IT AROUND, OKAY? IN THIS BUSINESS, IF YOU TELL 'EM YOU'RE SICK, YOU GOTTA PROVE YOU AIN'T DEAD. AND IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO GET FILMS INSURED...
WON'T HEAR IT FROM ME. SAY, LOOK AT THAT GUY!
LOOKS LIKE THEY TAPED SOME OF THE SETUP BEFORE THE TAKE. THOSE FELLAS ARE GRIPS. WHY?
I THINK I KNOW THAT GUY.
I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM. WHO IS HE?
WE WERE NEVER INTRODUCED, BUT HIS NAME'S VINCE CALLAN. THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE WAS TRYING TO BREAK A MAN'S KNEECAPS.

HALF AN HOUR LATER
OHHHH EASY, RACE. MY POOR BACK!
DOC, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO MOVE THAT FAKE BOULDER ALL BY YOURSELF!
HI, DAD! HI, RACE!
WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?
UM. . WE WENT WALKING WITH MARLEY .. IN THE JUNGLE
THAT'S A PRETTY DANGEROUS PLACE, GUYS... THOUGH COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS CAMP'S NOT REAL SAFE, EITHER.
OOOHHHH... RACE THINKS HE'S FOUND THE MAN WHO'S BEEN CAUSING ALL THESE ACCIDENTS... OHHH... CAREFUL, RACE!
HE'S A MIDDLE MANAGEMENT BADDIE WITH THE NEW JERSEY MOB. HE HANDLES COLLECTIONS. WHERE DID YOU SAY YOUR FRIEND GETS THE MONEY TO MAKE HIS MOVIES?
THE MONEY...? WHY, HE... THAT IS, HE... I MEAN... OF COURSE HE... HE WOULDN'T TAKE MONEY FROM... NO MATTER HOW DESPERATE HE WAS, HE JUST COULDN'T... COULD HE?
OH, STUART...
I CAN'T STAND THIS. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP IN DAYS, MY BACK HURTS, MY FINGERS ARE RAW, THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT FLIES AND MUD AND RAIN... AND NOW GANGSTERS! THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN THIS WHOLE MESS IS THAT THE "SWAMP MONSTER" TURNED OUT TO BE A MYTH!
UM... DAD? I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS...

NEXT MORNING...
...SO WE RIG THESE SMALL, EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ON THE TENT POLES AND BUILDING SUPPORTS...AND SET 'EM OFF WHEN PORKY CHARGES THROUGH. THAT WAY THEY FALL OVER EASY AND MAKE A LOTTA SMOKE FOR THE CAMERAS.
THIS IS VERY INTERESTING, MR. CRANE. THE REALITY BEHIND THE FANTASY...IT IS ALMOST ZEN!
ZEN IS BUNK, KID! THE FIRST THING YOU LEARN IN THIS BUSINESS IS THAT THERE'S NOTHING MYSTICAL OR MAGIC ABOUT MOVIES...IT'S ALL TRICKS AND TECHNO-CITY!
SO WISE UP, KID! LEARN A TRADE AND YOU'LL BE... HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?
ALL CLEAR?
YEAH, I GUESS. THE KID MUST'VE RUN OFF... SOMEWHERE...
GOOD. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
YOU'RE SURE YOU GOT THE OVERRIDE ON THE CONTROLS OF THE MONSTER? AND YOU INSTALLED THE "SURPRISE"?
YEAH, BUT LOOK, CALLAN, I'M STARTING TO GET COLD FEET.
DR. QUEST WAS RIGHT. THE ONLY PLACE FOR HIM TO HIDE WAS IN THE EFFECTS TRAILER. I MUST FIND JONNY QUICKLY!
YOU SAID THEY'D QUIT WITHOUT ANYBODY GETTING HURT.
WELL, SO THEY'RE STUBBORN. WHEN WE BUMP A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WITH THE IRON WHATTSSIS OVER THERE, THEY'LL HAVE TO PICK UP AND GO HOME!
BUT YOU GET SOME GUTS! YOU OWE US MONEY TOO...AND IF DON'T PAY OFF ONE WAY, YOU'LL PAY OFF ANOTHER!
YEAH, YEAH! I KNOW...I JUST DON'T LIKE IT IS ALL.

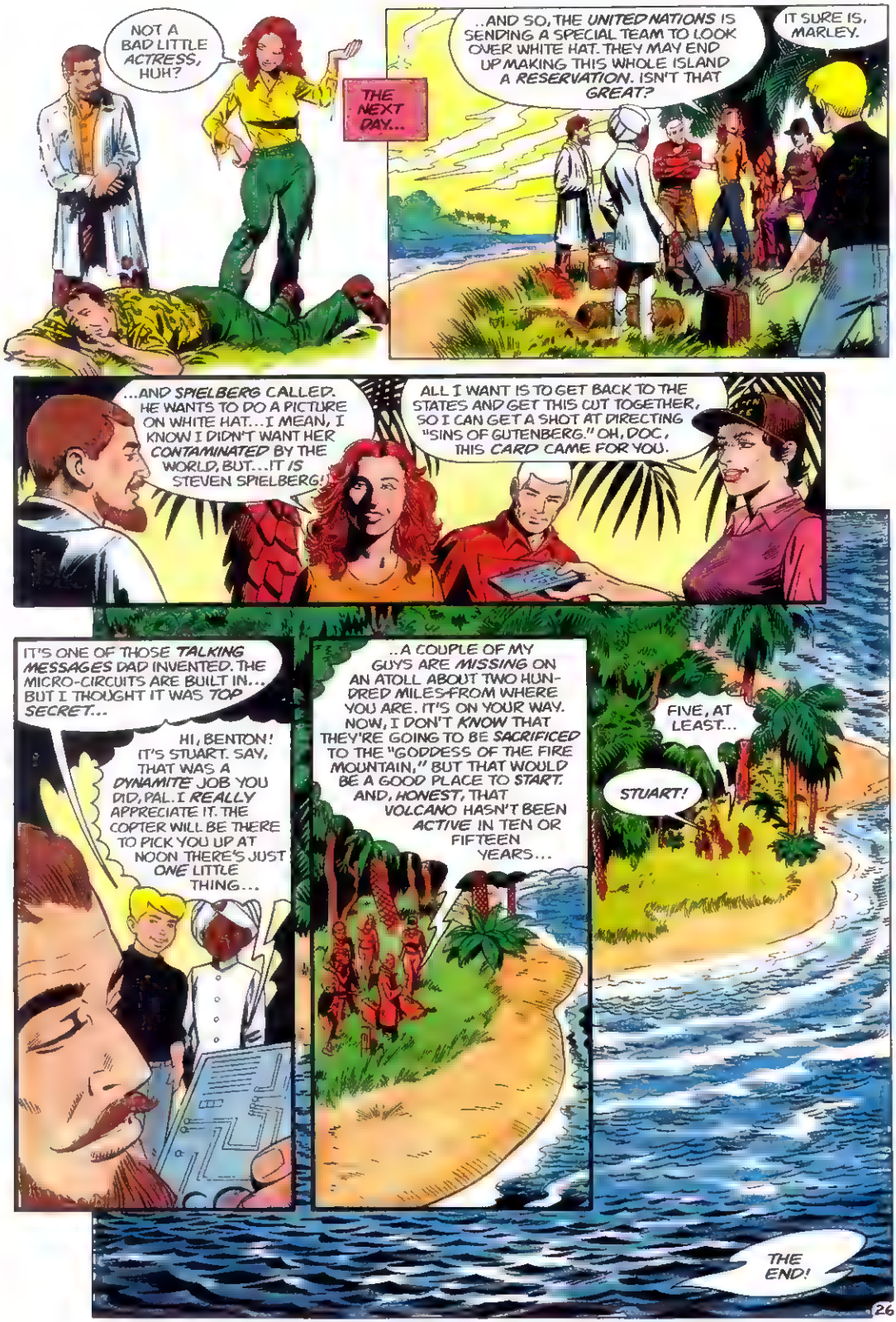
"...YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT."
I DON'T LIKE THIS, RACE, EVEN THOUGH I'LL BE HOLDING PORKY'S CONTROLS...SOMETHING COULD GO WRONG
I DON'T SEE THAT WE'VE A CHOICE, DOC. ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT AND WATCH, AND MAKE THE BEST MOVE WE CAN
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... EVEN IF STUART OWES THEM MONEY, RUINING THIS MOVIE WILL JUST MAKE HIM POORER...LESS ABLE TO PAY.
LOAN SHARKS AIN'T ROCKET SCIENTISTS, DOC. THAT'S HOW THEY GET TO BE LOAN SHARKS!
ALL SET TO PUT PORKY THROUGH HIS PACES?
AS MUCH AS I CAN BE. YOU WANT HIM TO RUN THROUGH THE BUILDINGS AND THE FIRING COWBOYS, TRYING TO GET TO MARLEY...? THEN STOP ABOUT TEN FEET AWAY...?
RIGHT. WE'VE ALREADY GOT SECOND UNIT STUFF OF PORKY TOSSING HIS HEAD AND LUNGING WITH HIS HORNS. WE'LL CUT THAT INTO THE CHARGE FOOTAGE LATER...
LET'S HAVE YOU RUN PORKY ALONG THE COURSE A COUPLE OF TIMES...GET USED TO WHERE THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ARE BURIED. AND WE'LL GET IT ON TAPE AND SEE HOW IT PLAYS.
SOUNDS FINE TO ME.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELPING US OUT, DOC. WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE SPECIAL EFFECTS GUY LEFT, AND I NEED FOSTER TO SET OFF THE CHARGES.
MY PLEASURE, I ASSURE YOU, MS. DRAKE

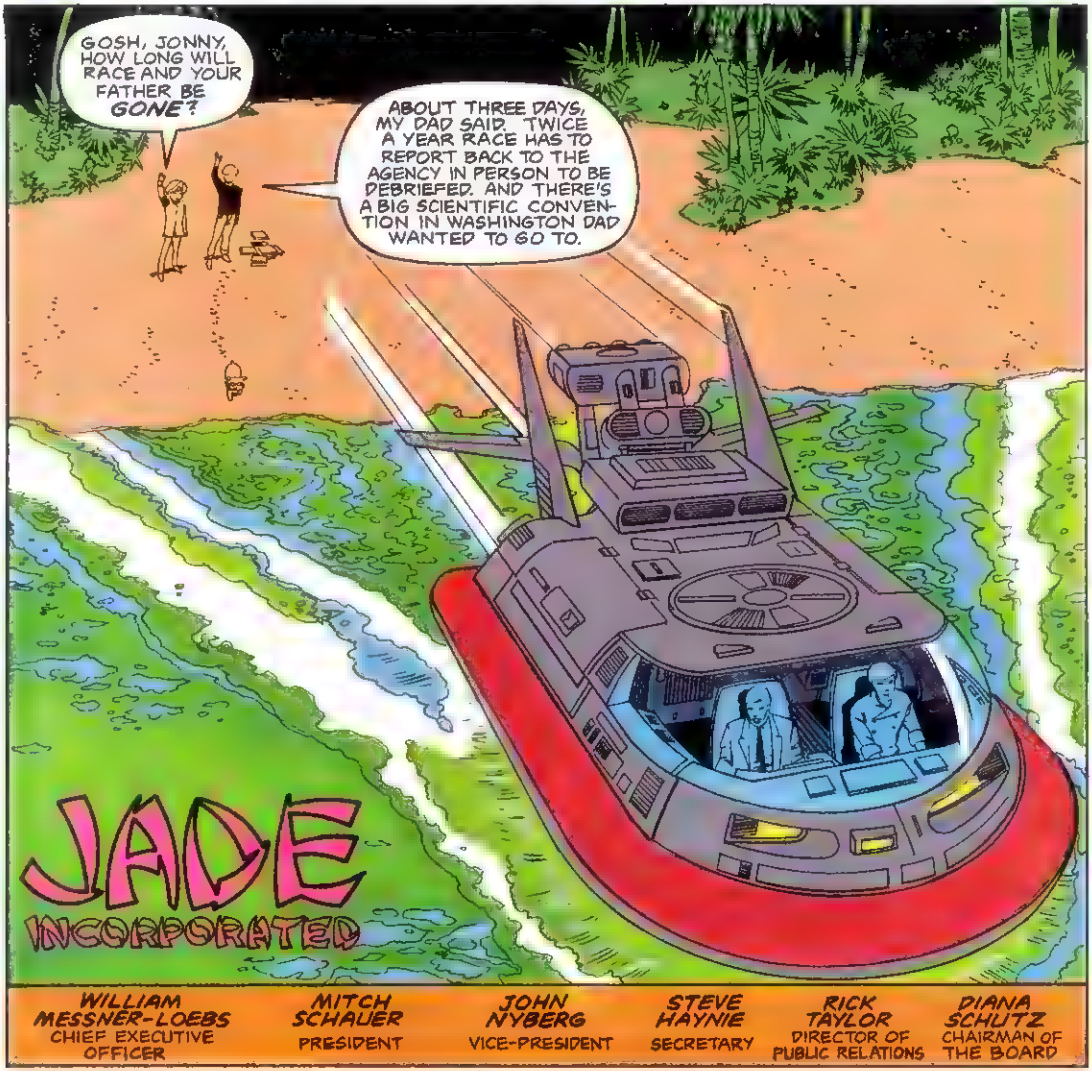
AND SO, SOMEWHAT LATER ..
OKAY, PEOPLE. LET'S TRY ONE
THE CONTROLS MOVE SO EASILY. AND THERE GOES THE FIRST EXPLOSION. FOSTER CANE SURELY KNOWS HIS JOB.
KA-BLAMM!
WAIT... HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO GO THAT WAY. THE CONTROLS AREN'T RESPONDING!
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
AT LEAST I'M GETTING LOTS OF PRACTICE TURNING HORN-HEAD OFF!
YAAAAA!
RACE LOOKS UNCONSCIOUS! THAT THING IS COMING THIS WAY!
RUN, DOCTOR! YOU'VE JAMMED THE CONTROLS SOMEHOW!
DON'T PUT THE BLAME ON HIM, TRAITOR! YOU'RE CONTROLLING THE ROBOT!
NO...NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

QUICK, DAD! GET HIM AWAY FROM THE CONTROLS! HE'S PART OF THE PLOT!
JONNY GOT HIM, BUT THE ROBOT'S STILL COMING! AND WE CAN'T STOP IT!
COME ON, BARRYMORE... RUN! IT'S GETTING DANGEROUS AROUND HERE!
WHA... NO, MOM... S'SATURDAY... NO SCHOOL ON SATURDAY...
BRRROOOO
IT'S WHITE HAT!
OUCH! I FELT THAT ONE DOWN TO MY TOES!
RIGHT! AND IF YOU MISS EVEN ONE FRAME OF THIS, I WILL PERSONALLY STRANGLE YOU IN YOUR SLEEP!
WHITE HAT'S WINNING!
BUT THE ROBOT JUST KEEPS COMING. HOW LONG CAN WHITE HAT LAST?

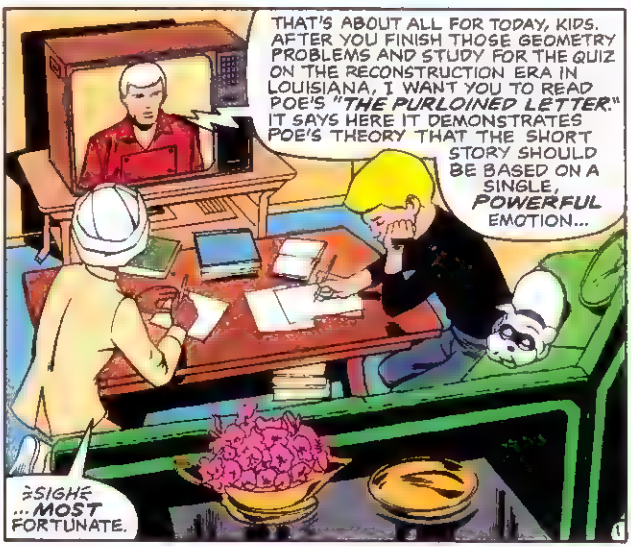
KA-FLACSSHHH!
SSSSS POK POK
HE WON'T HAVE TO LAST LONG. THOSE SPARKS MEAN THE ROBOT'S SHORTING. I THINK IT'S ABOUT TO. .
BRRROOD!
GOOD WHITE HAT! PRETTY WHITE HAT! YOU SAVED US ALL!
TOO BAD. NOW I'VE GOT TO DO IT THE HARD WAY.
CALLAN!
THIS IS CRAZY, CALLAN! IF STUART GOLD OWES YOU MONEY ON THIS PICTURE...
NOT THIS PICTURE, DOC. TWO PICTURES AGO... AND HE NEVER PAID US BACK... NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY. NOW HE'S BROKE.
AND HE'S SURE NOT GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY ON THIS TURKEY... UNLESS IT NEVER GETS MADE AND THE INSURANCE KICKS IN. SO WE STARTED MAKING ACCIDENTS... NOW THERE'S GONNA BE ANOTHER.

MOST EVERYBODY'S RUN AWAY INTO THE JUNGLE. BY THE TIME THEY GET BACK, YOU'LL ALL BE DEAD. YOU'RE GONNA GET INTO ONE OF THOSE TRAILERS AND THERE'S GONNA BE A FIRE. A BAD FIRE.
NO, WE'RE NOT. NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE.
MARLEY...?
THIS IS A GUN, SWEETHEART. AND YOU JUST VOLUNTEERED TO GO FIRST.
AND THIS IS A PERCUSSION GRENADE... THE KIND YOUR BUDDY USED TO SET OFF EXPLOSIONS. THERE'S A TON OF THEM STORED IN THE HUT BEHIND US... AND THE GROUND IS SOAKED WITH GASOLINE.
YOU'RE NUTS, LADY! YOU'LL BLOW UP TOO!
SO WHAT? MAYBE I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE! MY LIFE IS A MESS! MY CAREER IS A JOKE! THIS MOVIE WAS MY LAST CHANCE! I'M POISON IN HOLLYWOOD! "MARLEY FROST IS HERE TO STAY"... WHAT A PITIFUL LAUGH!
THIS IS BETTER... BETTER FOR ALL OF US... BLOWN TO GLORY IN A CLEAN, WHITE-HOT BALL OF APOCALYPTIC FIRE! THE LAST CURTAIN... NOW!
NO... WAIT... I'LL SHOOT...!
BOOM!
CRAACKK!


NOT A BAD LITTLE ACTRESS, HUH?
THE NEXT DAY...
..AND SO, THE UNITED NATIONS IS SENDING A SPECIAL TEAM TO LOOK OVER WHITE HAT. THEY MAY END UP MAKING THIS WHOLE ISLAND A RESERVATION. ISN'T THAT GREAT?
IT SURE IS, MARLEY.
...AND SPIELBERG CALLED. HE WANTS TO DO A PICTURE ON WHITE HAT... I MEAN, I KNOW I DIDN'T WANT HER CONTAMINATED BY THE WORLD, BUT... IT IS STEVEN SPIELBERG!
ALL I WANT IS TO GET BACK TO THE STATES AND GET THIS CUT TOGETHER, SO I CAN GET A SHOT AT DIRECTING "SINS OF GUTENBERG." OH, DOC, THIS CARD CAME FOR YOU.
IT'S ONE OF THOSE TALKING MESSAGES DAD INVENTED. THE MICRO-CIRCUITS ARE BUILT IN... BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS TOP SECRET...
HI, BENTON! IT'S STUART. SAY, THAT WAS A DYNAMITE JOB YOU DID, PAL. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT. THE COPTER WILL BE THERE TO PICK YOU UP AT NOON. THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE THING...
..A COUPLE OF MY GUYS ARE MISSING ON AN ATOLL ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MILES FROM WHERE YOU ARE. IT'S ON YOUR WAY. NOW, I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE "GODDESS OF THE FIRE MOUNTAIN," BUT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO START. AND, HONEST, THAT VOLCANO HASN'T BEEN ACTIVE IN TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS...
FIVE, AT LEAST...
STUART!
THE END!

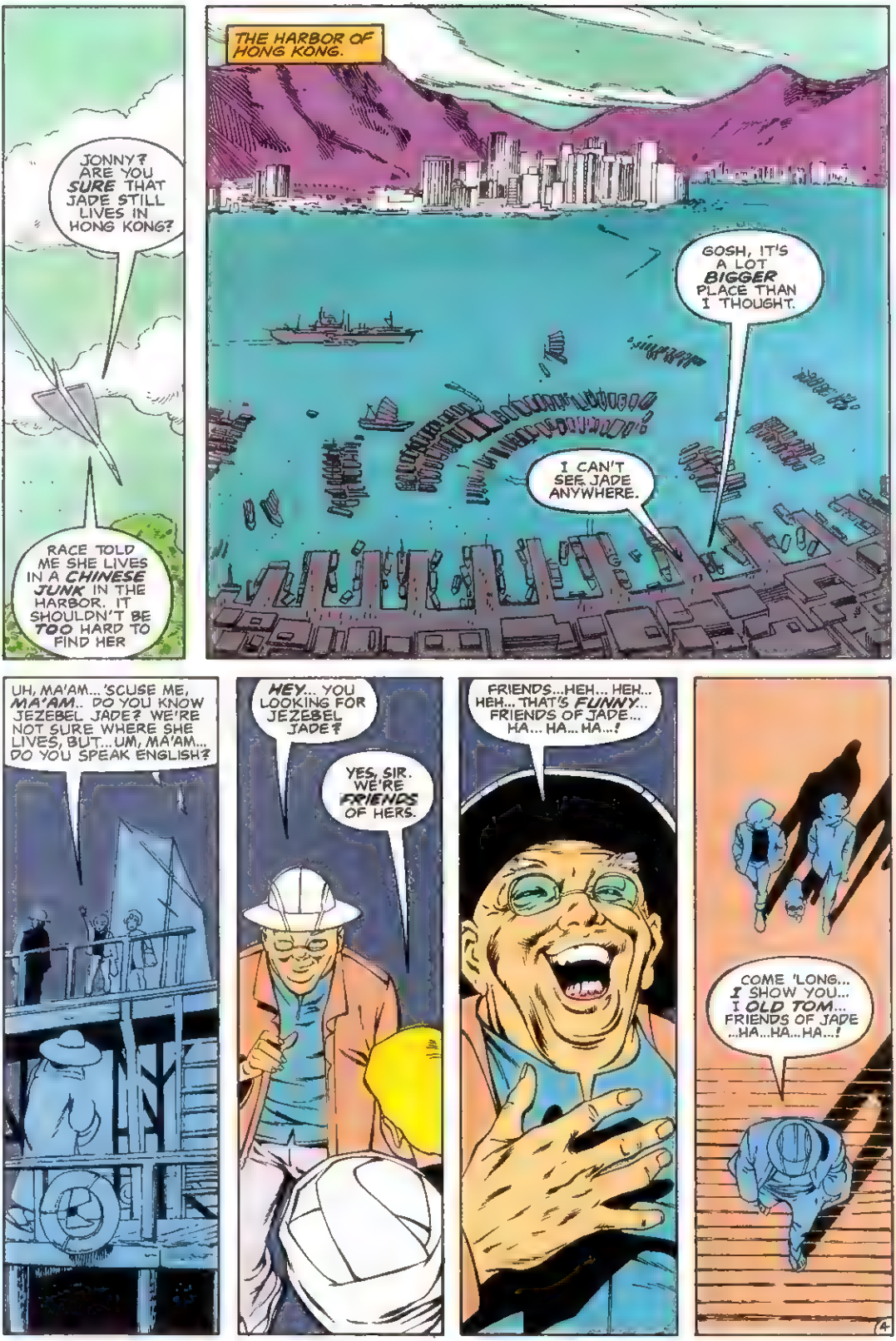

GOSH, JONNY, HOW LONG WILL RACE AND YOUR FATHER BE GONE?
ABOUT THREE DAYS, MY DAD SAID. TWICE A YEAR RACE HAS TO REPORT BACK TO THE AGENCY IN PERSON TO BE DEBRIEFED. AND THERE'S A BIG SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON DAD WANTED TO GO TO.
JADE INCORPORATED
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MITCH SCHAUER PRESIDENT
JOHN NYBERG VICE-PRESIDENT
STEVE HAYNIE SECRETARY
RICK TAYLOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
DIANA SCHULTZ CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

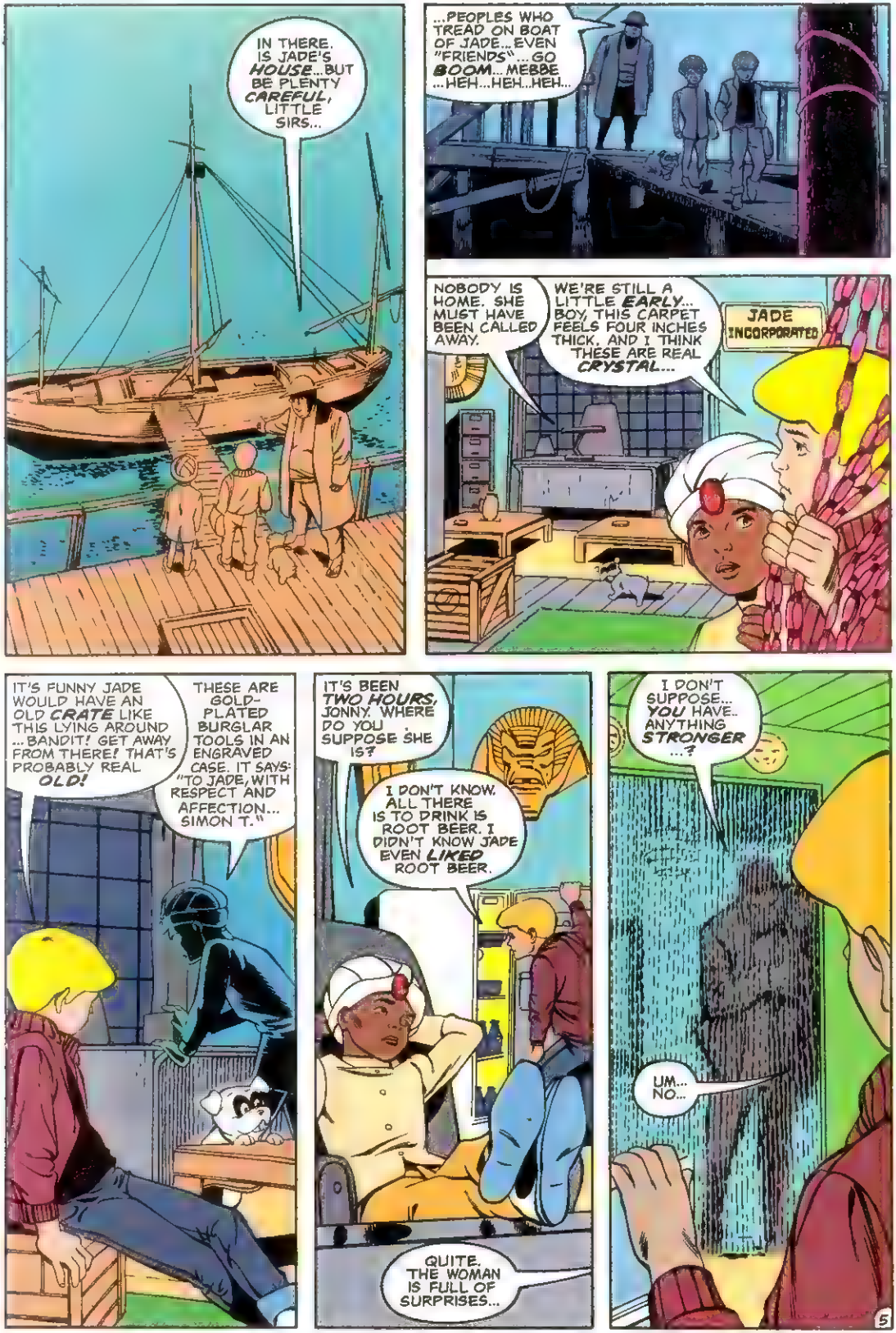
THREE WHOLE DAYS... ALL TO OURSELVES!
YEAH, IT'S LUCKY RACE REMEMBERED TO RECORD OUR LESSONS ON THE VCR, SO WE WOULDN'T GET BORED.

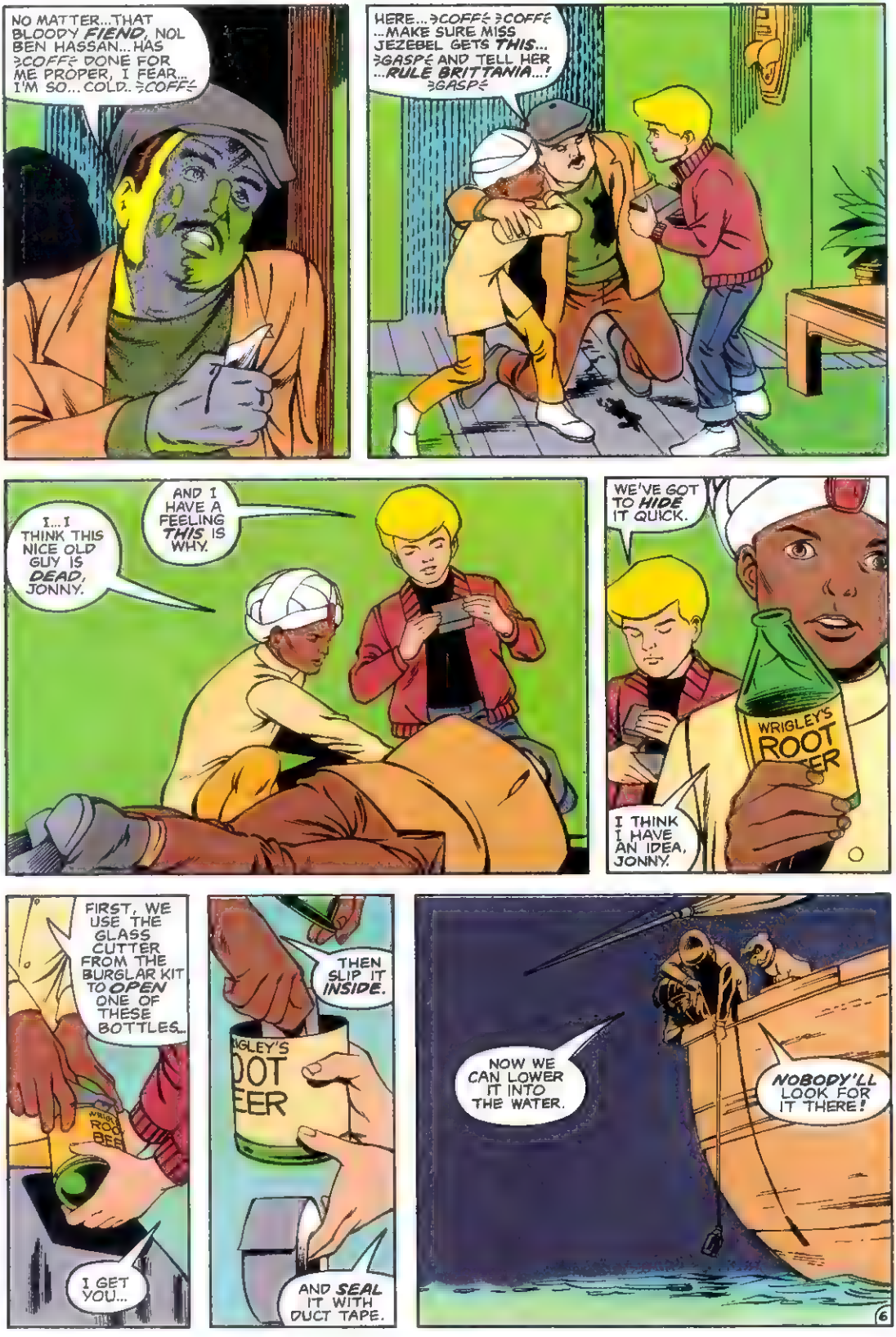

THAT'S ABOUT ALL FOR TODAY, KIDS. AFTER YOU FINISH THOSE GEOMETRY PROBLEMS AND STUDY FOR THE QUIZ ON THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA IN LOUISIANA, I WANT YOU TO READ POE'S "THE PURLOINED LETTER." IT SAYS HERE IT DEMONSTRATES POE'S THEORY THAT THE SHORT STORY SHOULD BE BASED ON A SINGLE, POWERFUL EMOTION...
SIGHE ...MOST FORTUNATE.

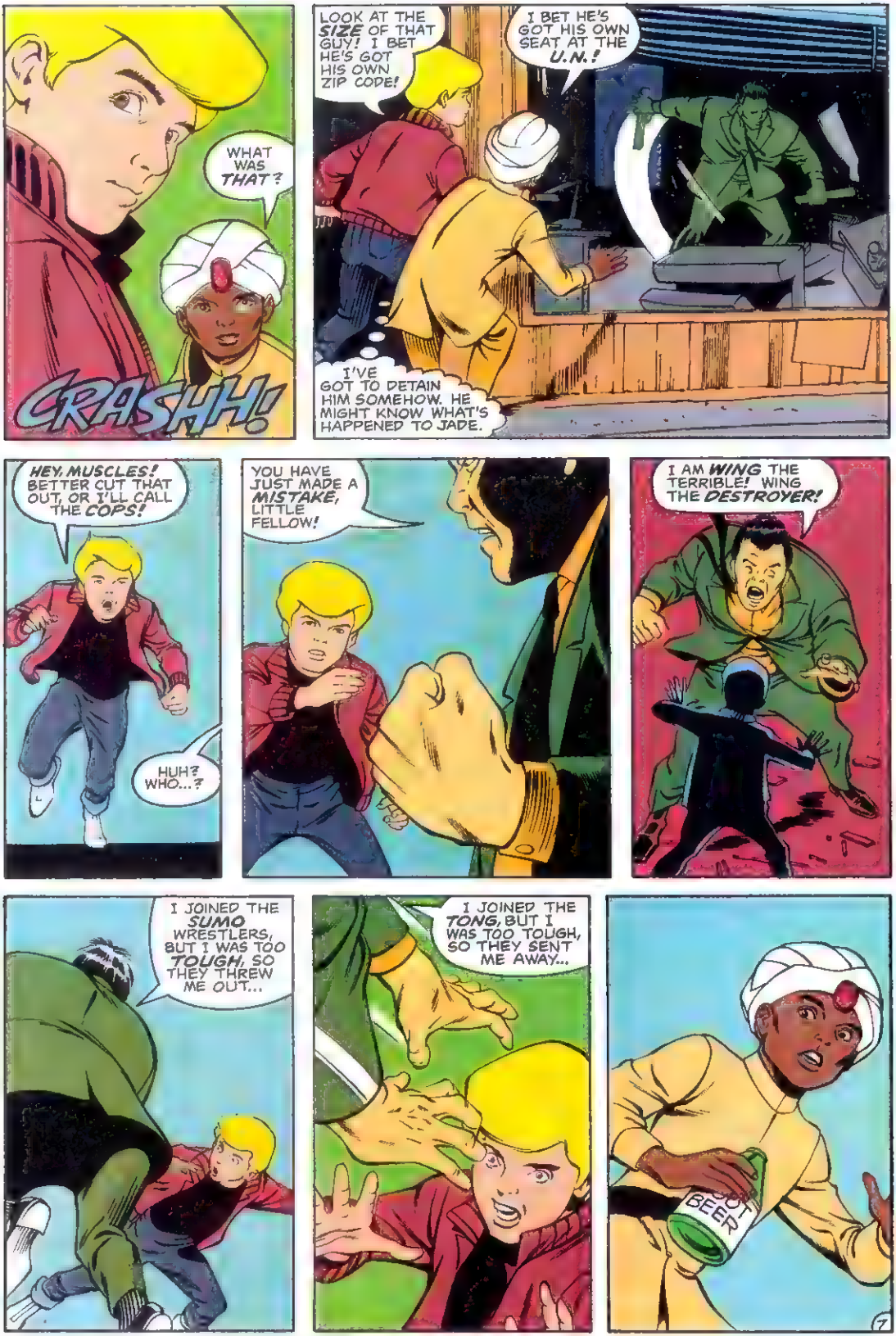
THE SINGLE, POWERFUL EMOTION I HAVE DISCOVERED IS BOREDOM.
I THINK THIS WOULD BE A GREAT STORY.. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO READ IT FOR SCHOOL.
LOOK! BANDIT'S GOT THE MAIL!
IT IS A PACKAGE FROM JEZEBEL JADE... TO RACE. SHOULD WE OPEN IT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKS IMPORTANT... AND RACE SAID WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REACH HIM FOR THREE DAYS.
IT'S A VIDEOTAPE. LET'S PLAY IT.
HI, RACEY! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY VIDEOTAPE CAMERA? ISN'T IT FAVE? I JUST LOVE IT! ;GIGGLE< I MISS YOU, RACEY-POO!
FAVE?
RACEY-POO?!
WELL, I JUST WANTED TO SHOW OFF MY SILLY NEW TOY. THINGS HAVE BEEN ULTRA MELLOW AROUND HERE. I GO SHOPPING AND GIVE AS MUCH AS I CAN TO CHARITY. IT MAKES ME FEEL SO ...WARM TO HELP THE UNFORTUNATE. AFTER ALL, IT'S ONLY MONEY. BYE-BYE FOR NOW.
IT'S ONLY MONEY? THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, HADJI.
YES. JADE DOES NOT TALK THIS WAY.
2

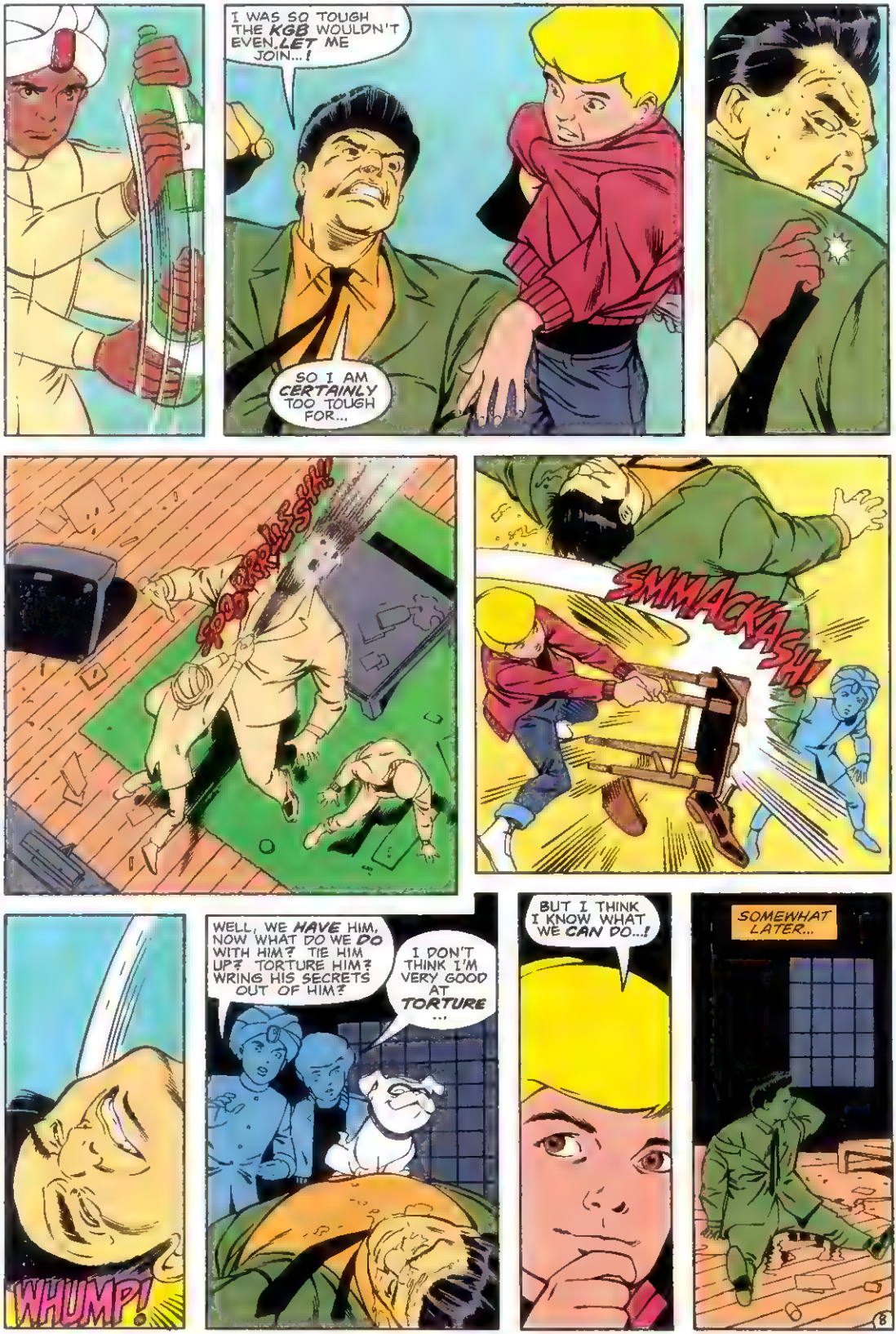
MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TO SEND RACE A MESSAGE. LET HIM KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITHOUT SAYING IT.
LET US SLOW DOWN THE TAPE. PERHAPS... AH, LOOK THERE... A FLICKER!
SHE MUST'VE RECORDED SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE TAPE. WE'LL USE STOP ACTION AND GO OVER IT INCH BY INCH.
THERE... THERE IT IS!
2:00 P.M.
MY PLACE
SEPTEMBER 14
SEPTEMBER 14th? THAT'S TOMORROW!
JADE WOULD HAVE TO BE PRETTY DESPERATE TO ASK RACE FOR HELP.
AND RACE WON'T BE BACK FOR DAYS.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
QUEST RESEARCHES... TRAVEL PRIORITY GOLD. WELL, ALL YOUR PAPERS SEEM TO BE IN ORDER. BUT AREN'T YOU A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE A WORLD-FAMOUS SCIENTIST?
OH, THAT'S MY DAD. WE'RE...UM... MEETING HIM IN HONG KONG.
EAST AIRLINES


JONNY? ARE YOU SURE THAT JADE STILL LIVES IN HONG KONG?
RACE TOLD ME SHE LIVES IN A CHINESE JUNK IN THE HARBOR. IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO FIND HER
THE HARBOR OF HONG KONG.
GOSH, IT'S A LOT BIGGER PLACE THAN I THOUGHT.
I CAN'T SEE JADE ANYWHERE.
UH, MA'AM... 'SCUSE ME, MA'AM.. DO YOU KNOW JEZEBEL JADE? WE'RE NOT SURE WHERE SHE LIVES, BUT... UM, MA'AM... DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
HEY... YOU LOOKING FOR JEZEBEL JADE?
YES, SIR. WE'RE FRIENDS OF HERS.
FRIENDS...HEH... HEH... HEH... THAT'S FUNNY... FRIENDS OF JADE... HA... HA... HA...!
COME 'LONG... I SHOW YOU... I OLD TOM... FRIENDS OF JADE ...HA...HA...HA...!
4


IN THERE. IS JADE'S HOUSE...BUT BE PLENTY CAREFUL, LITTLE SIRS...
...PEOPLES WHO TREAD ON BOAT OF JADE...EVEN "FRIENDS"...GO BOOM...MEBBE ...HEH...HEH...HEH...
NOBODY IS HOME. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN CALLED AWAY.
WE'RE STILL A LITTLE EARLY... BOY, THIS CARPET FEELS FOUR INCHES THICK. AND I THINK THESE ARE REAL CRYSTAL...
JADE INCORPORATED
IT'S FUNNY JADE WOULD HAVE AN OLD CRATE LIKE THIS LYING AROUND ...BANDIT! GET AWAY FROM THERE! THAT'S PROBABLY REAL OLD!
THESE ARE GOLD-PLATED BURGLAR TOOLS IN AN ENGRAVED CASE. IT SAYS: "TO JADE, WITH RESPECT AND AFFECTION... SIMON T."
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS, JONNY. WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE IS?
I DON'T KNOW. ALL THERE IS TO DRINK IS ROOT BEER. I DIDN'T KNOW JADE EVEN LIKED ROOT BEER.
QUITE. THE WOMAN IS FULL OF SURPRISES...
I DON'T SUPPOSE... YOU HAVE.. ANYTHING STRONGER ...?
UM... NO...
5

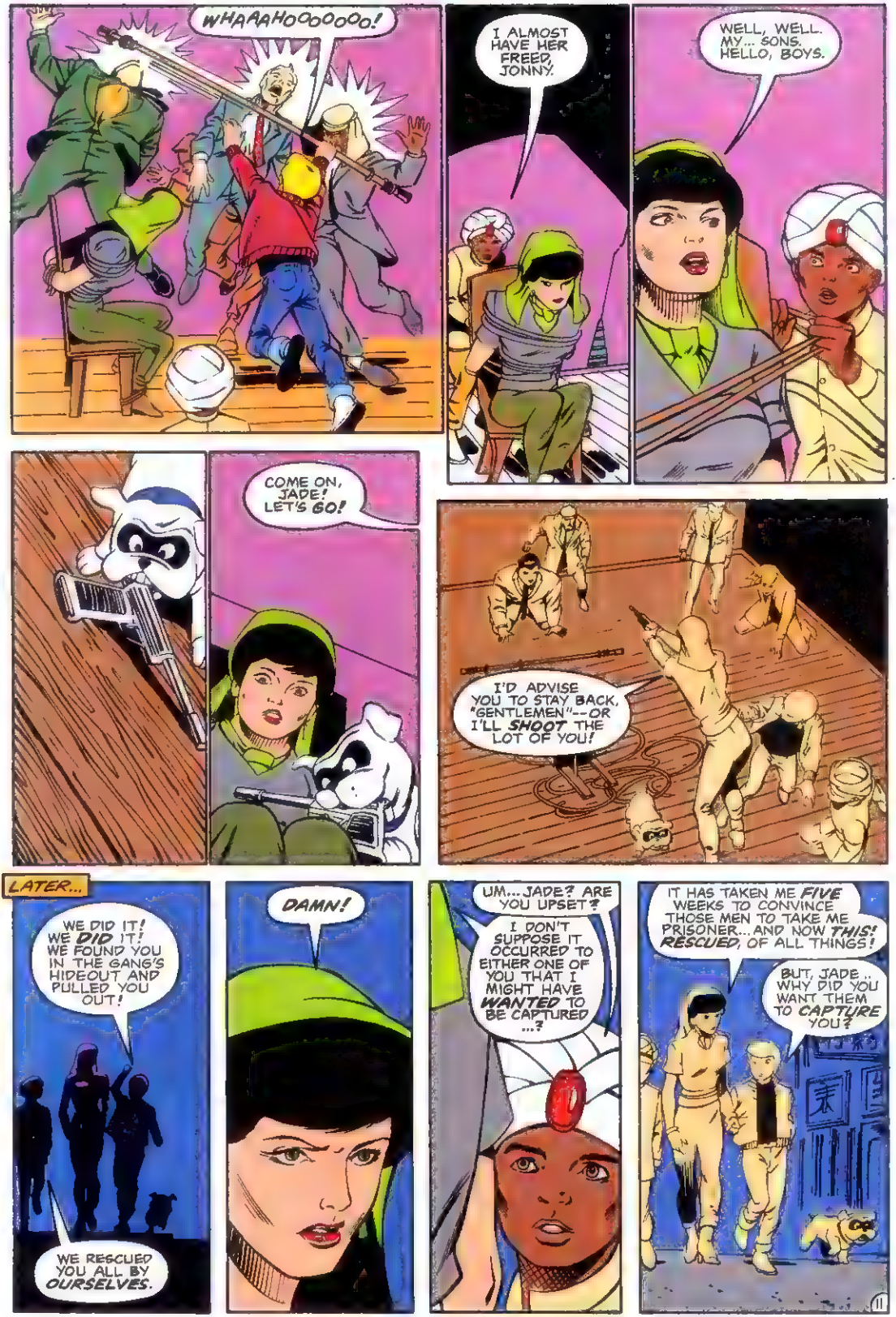

NO MATTER...THAT BLOODY FIEND, NOL BEN HASSAN... HAS ≥COFF≤ DONE FOR ME PROPER, I FEAR... I'M SO... COLD.. ≥COFF≤
HERE... ≥COFF≤ ≥COFF≤ ...MAKE SURE MISS JEZEBEL GETS THIS... ≥GASP≤ AND TELL HER ...RULE BRITTANIA...! ≥GASP≤
I... I THINK THIS NICE OLD GUY IS DEAD, JONNY.
AND I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS WHY.
WE'VE GOT TO HIDE IT QUICK.
WRIGLEY'S ROOT
I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA, JONNY.
FIRST, WE USE THE GLASS CUTTER FROM THE BURGLAR KIT TO OPEN ONE OF THESE BOTTLES...
I GET YOU...
THEN SLIP IT INSIDE.
AND SEAL IT WITH DUCT TAPE.
NOW WE CAN LOWER IT INTO THE WATER.
NOBODY'LL LOOK FOR IT THERE!
6

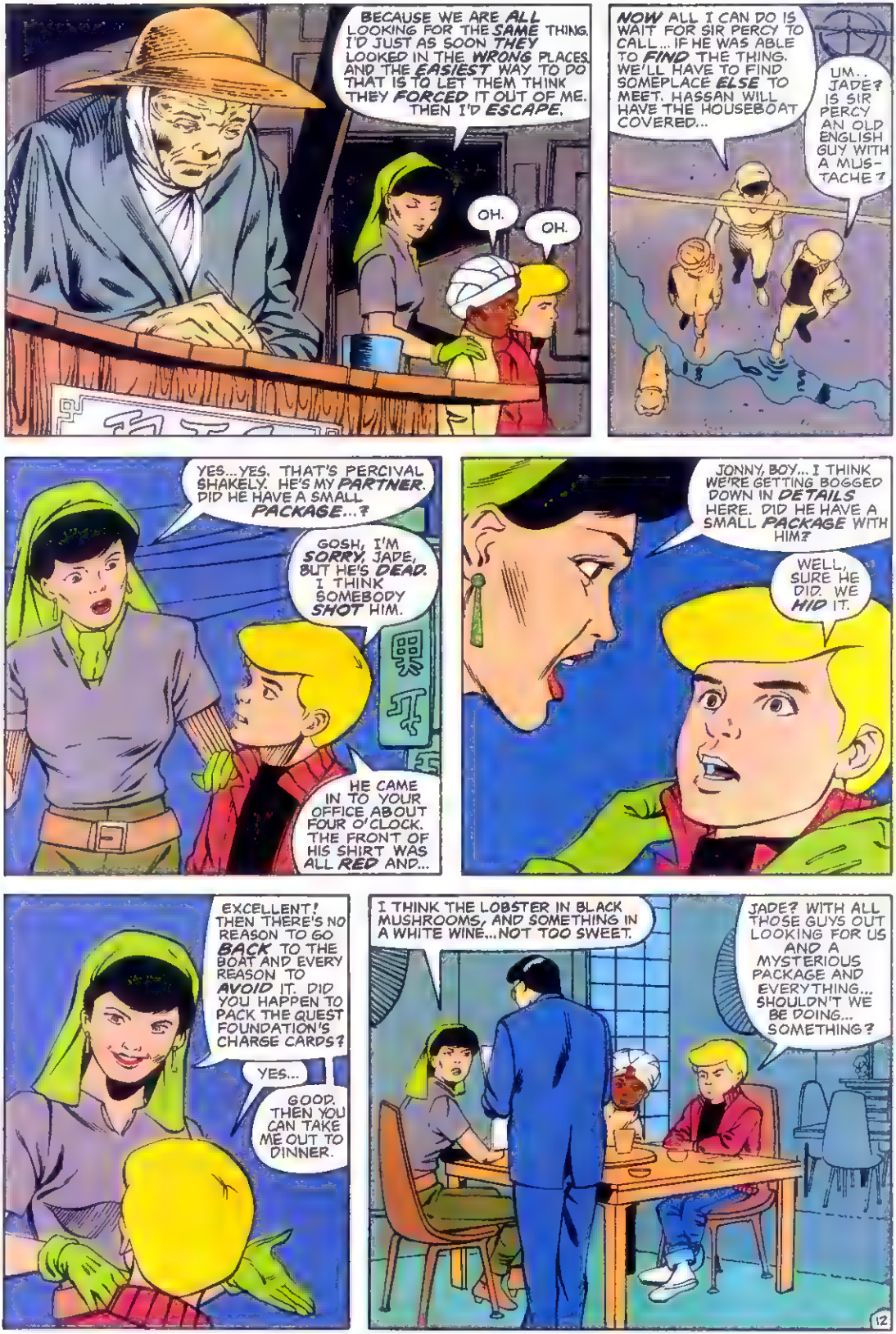

WHAT WAS THAT?
CRASHH!
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT GUY! I BET HE'S GOT HIS OWN ZIP CODE!
I BET HE'S GOT HIS OWN SEAT AT THE U.N.!
I'VE GOT TO DETAIN HIM SOMEHOW. HE MIGHT KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO JADE.
HEY, MUSCLES! BETTER CUT THAT OUT, OR I'LL CALL THE COPS!
HUH? WHO...?
YOU HAVE JUST MADE A MISTAKE, LITTLE FELLOW!
I AM WING THE TERRIBLE! WING THE DESTROYER!
I JOINED THE SUMO WRESTLERS, BUT I WAS TOO TOUGH, SO THEY THREW ME OUT...
I JOINED THE TONG, BUT I WAS TOO TOUGH, SO THEY SENT ME AWAY...
BEER
7


I WAS SO TOUGH THE KGB WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME JOIN...!
SO I AM CERTAINLY TOO TOUGH FOR...
SMMACKASH!
WHUMP!
WELL, WE HAVE HIM, NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM? TIE HIM UP? TORTURE HIM? WRING HIS SECRETS OUT OF HIM?
I DON'T THINK I'M VERY GOOD AT TORTURE ...
BUT I THINK I KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO...!
SOMEWHAT LATER...
8

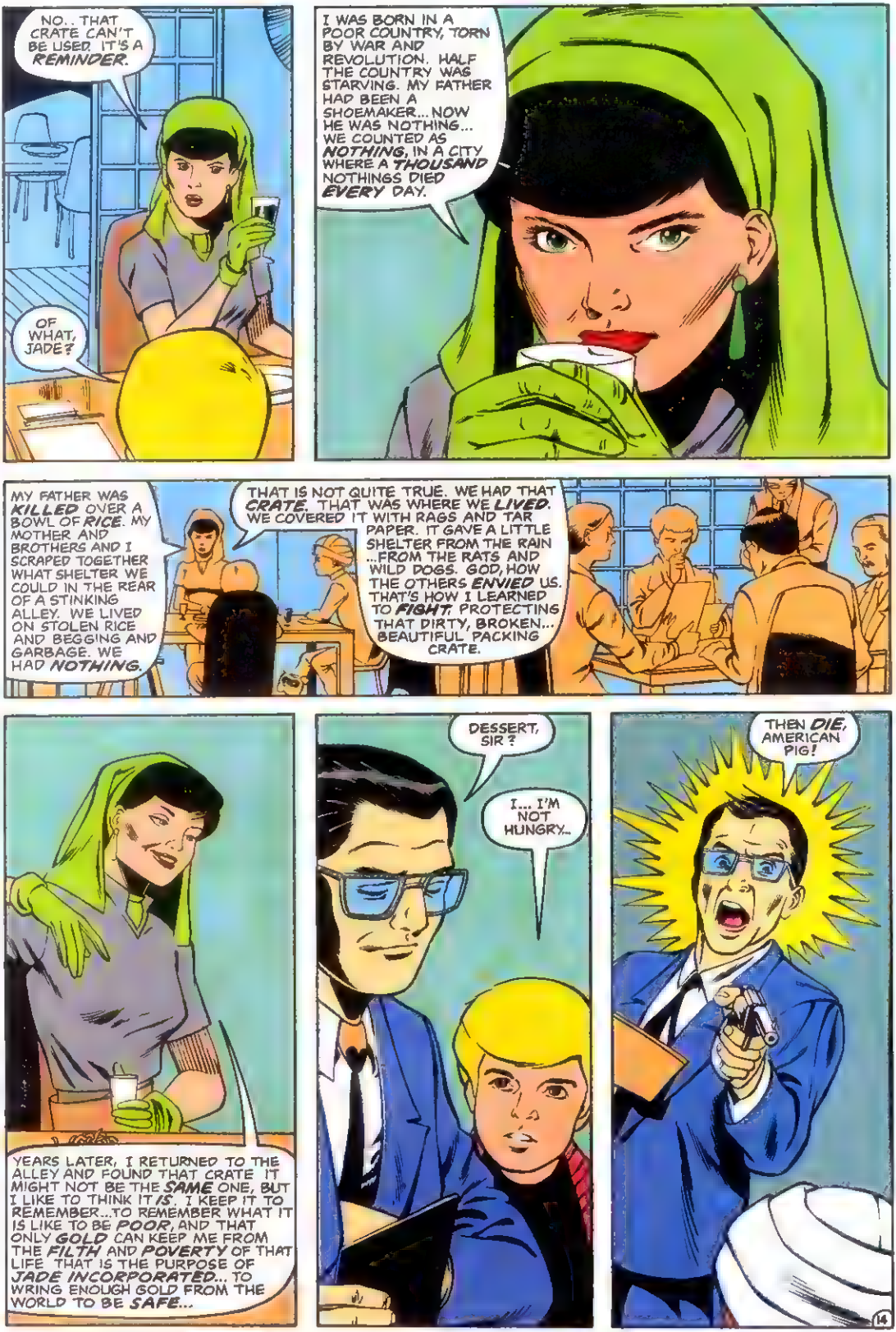
I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS WE LET HIM GO.
HE'D BETTER NOT HE'S ALL WE'VE GOT TO FIND JADE.
WE'VE GONE ALMOST TWO MILES.
JUST BE GLAD HE DID NOT HAVE A CAR.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A HOTEL. WE DON'T DARE GO IN BEHIND HIM.
MAYBE THERE'S A BACK DOOR.
THERE ARE SO MANY ROOMS.
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING. SHE'S GOT TO BE HERE.
JONNY! I THINK I HAVE FOUND HER!
AND THIS IS YOUR FINAL ANSWER, MADAME JADE?
9

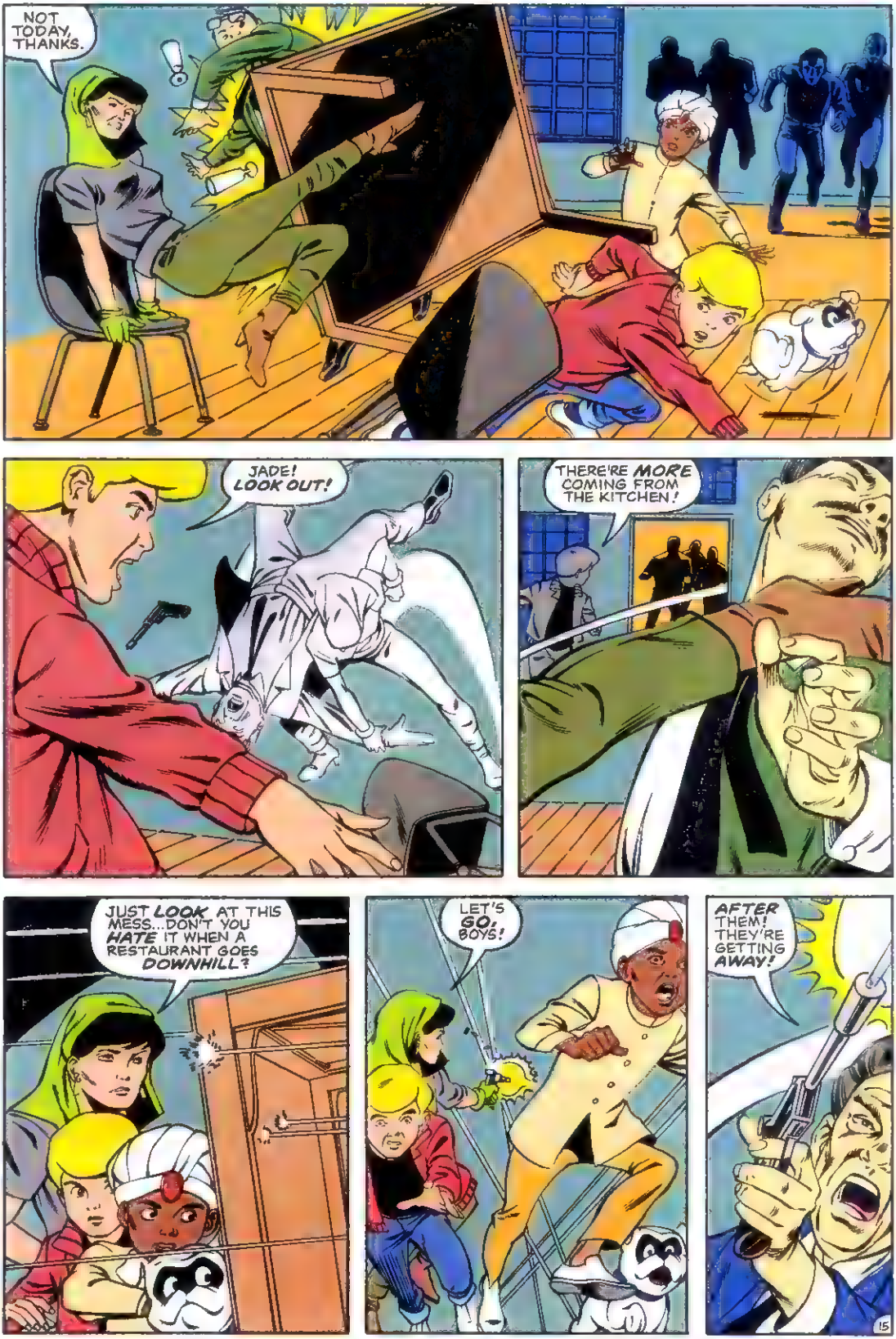
OH, I DON'T KNOW, CHUCKLES WHAT WAS THE FINAL QUESTION AGAIN?
BRAVERY IS NOT AN ALLY YOU SHOULD COURT, JADE. YOU CAN DIE IN VERY DIRTY WAYS IN THIS ROOM.. IN MANY HIDEOUS WAYS... YOU DO NOT WANT TO DIE LIKE THIS... TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.
HOW FRIGHTENED AM I SUPPOSED TO BE AT THIS POINT, HASSAN? I'D HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
YOU MUST TELL ME EVENTUALLY... AND WHY NOT? YOU CANNOT USE THE OBJECT... I CAN. I AM DESPERATE FOR IT, AND I AM A WEALTHY MAN. CAN I TEMPT YOU WITH AN ENORMOUS BRIBE?
AT LEAST NOW YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.
DID YOU FIND IT?
NO. HER SONS WERE THERE... BUT I ESCAPED.
NO MATTER. I THINK IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE MADAME JADE WILL TELL US JUST.. HER SONS? SOMEONE CAPTURED YOU AND THEN LET YOU ESCAPE?
WELL, I GUESS THEY WERE SCARED OF ME... I AM A PRETTY TOUGH...
BUMPF!
10

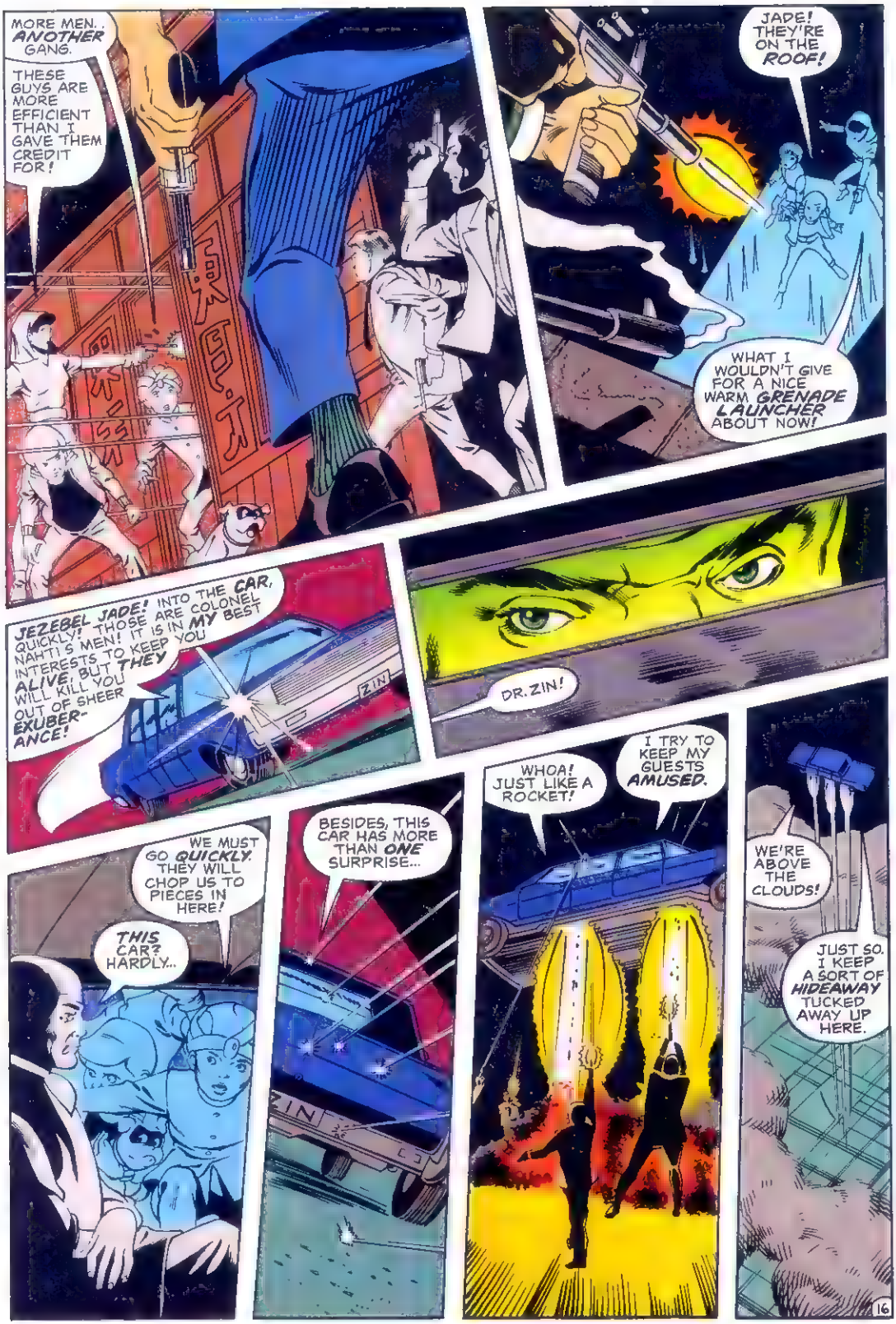

WHAAAHOOOOOOO!
I ALMOST HAVE HER FREED, JONNY.
WELL, WELL. MY... SONS. HELLO, BOYS.
COME ON, JADE! LET'S GO!
I'D ADVISE YOU TO STAY BACK, "GENTLEMEN"--OR I'LL SHOOT THE LOT OF YOU!
LATER...
WE DID IT! WE DID IT! WE FOUND YOU IN THE GANG'S HIDEOUT AND PULLED YOU OUT!
WE RESCUED YOU ALL BY OURSELVES.
DAMN!
UM... JADE? ARE YOU UPSET?
I DON'T SUPPOSE IT OCCURRED TO EITHER ONE OF YOU THAT I MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO BE CAPTURED ...?
IT HAS TAKEN ME FIVE WEEKS TO CONVINCE THOSE MEN TO TAKE ME PRISONER... AND NOW THIS! RESCUED, OF ALL THINGS!
BUT, JADE... WHY DID YOU WANT THEM TO CAPTURE YOU?
11

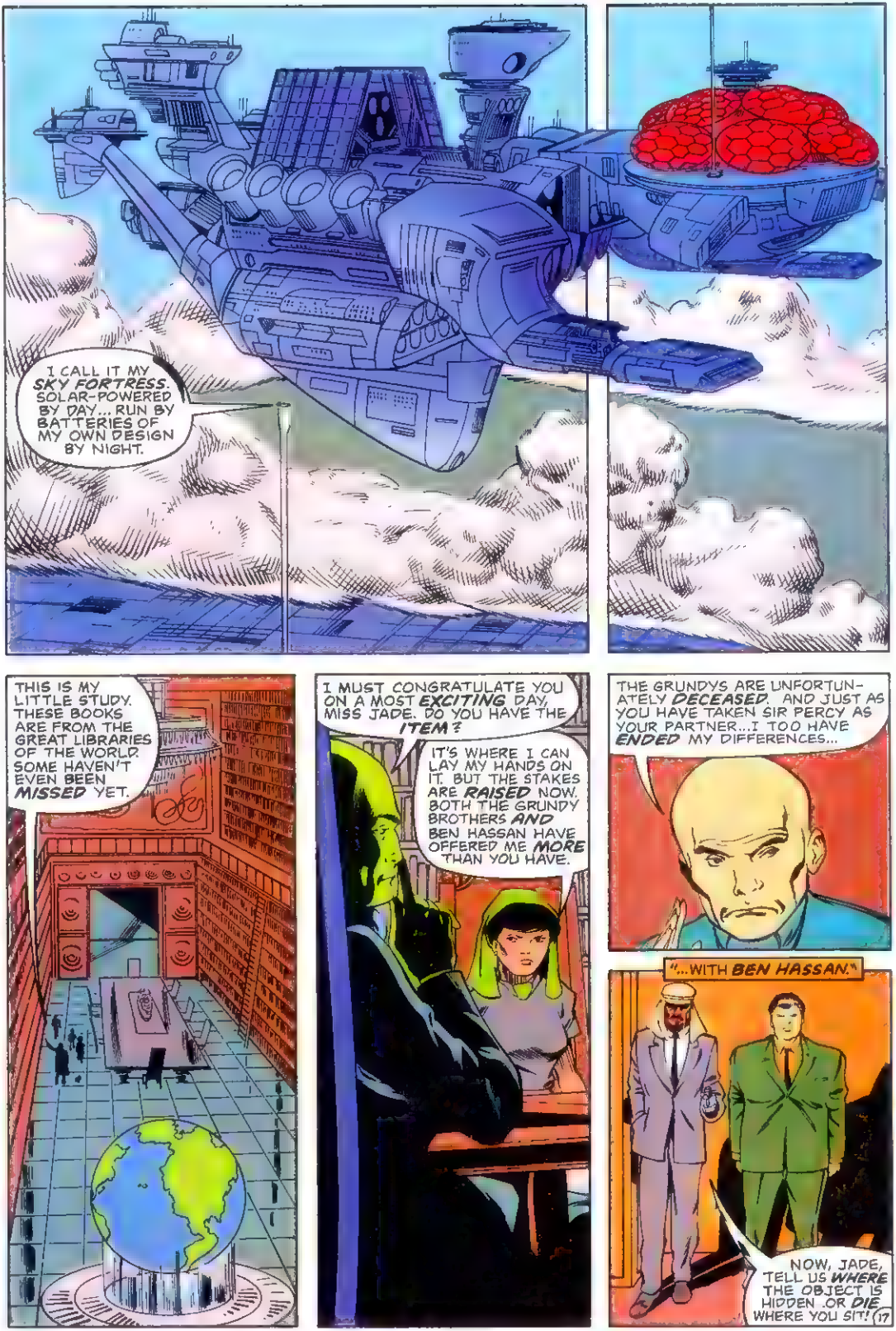

BECAUSE WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING. I'D JUST AS SOON THEY LOOKED IN THE WRONG PLACES. AND THE EASIEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO LET THEM THINK THEY FORCED IT OUT OF ME. THEN I'D ESCAPE.
OH.
OH.
NOW ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT FOR SIR PERCY TO CALL... IF HE WAS ABLE TO FIND THE THING. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO MEET. HASSAN WILL HAVE THE HOUSEBOAT COVERED...
UM.. JADE? IS SIR PERCY AN OLD ENGLISH GUY WITH A MUSTACHE?
YES...YES. THAT'S PERCIVAL SHAKELY. HE'S MY PARTNER. DID HE HAVE A SMALL PACKAGE...?
GOSH, I'M SORRY, JADE, BUT HE'S DEAD. I THINK SOMEBODY SHOT HIM.
HE CAME IN TO YOUR OFFICE ABOUT FOUR O'CLOCK. THE FRONT OF HIS SHIRT WAS ALL RED AND...
JONNY, BOY... I THINK WE'RE GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILS HERE. DID HE HAVE A SMALL PACKAGE WITH HIM?
WELL, SURE HE DID. WE HID IT.
EXCELLENT! THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO GO BACK TO THE BOAT AND EVERY REASON TO AVOID IT. DID YOU HAPPEN TO PACK THE QUEST FOUNDATION'S CHARGE CARDS?
YES...
GOOD. THEN YOU CAN TAKE ME OUT TO DINNER.
I THINK THE LOBSTER IN BLACK MUSHROOMS, AND SOMETHING IN A WHITE WINE...NOT TOO SWEET.
JADE? WITH ALL THOSE GUYS OUT LOOKING FOR US AND A MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE AND EVERYTHING... SHOULDN'T WE BE DOING... SOMETHING?
12

WHY? I DOUBT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR US IN EXPENSIVE RESTAURANTS, AND I DON'T WANT TO LEAD THEM TO THE PACKAGE.
WHAT IS THIS PACKAGE, MISS JADE?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I KNOW THAT DR. ZIN WANTS IT BADLY. HE AND BEN HASSAN HAVE BEEN SHOOTING UP THE ORIENT FOR WEEKS TRYING TO GET IT
AND THEY WEREN'T ALONE. THE YELLOW CLAW BOUGHT THE FARM IN MONACO LAST WEEK AND WE LOST JACQUES THE WOLF IN TANGIERS. IT'S BEEN A ROUGH SUMMER.
TELL ME... DOES RACE GENERALLY SEND YOU KIDS OUT ON HIS CASES?
NO, IT WAS KIND OF AN EMERGENCY... HE HAS TRAINED US, THOUGH.
I SEE.
JUST WHAT DID YOU DO WITH POOR OLD PERCY'S BODY?
EXCELLENT VINTAGE
SNIFF SNIFF
WE ROLLED IT UNDER THE BED.
GOOD. HE DID SO LOVE TO BE TIDY.
THERE'S THAT OLD CRATE IN YOUR OFFICE WE COULD PUT HIM IN THAT.
COKE, PLEASE.
13


NO.. THAT CRATE CAN'T BE USED. IT'S A REMINDER.
OF WHAT, JADE?
I WAS BORN IN A POOR COUNTRY, TORN BY WAR AND REVOLUTION. HALF THE COUNTRY WAS STARVING. MY FATHER HAD BEEN A SHOEMAKER... NOW HE WAS NOTHING... WE COUNTED AS NOTHING, IN A CITY WHERE A THOUSAND NOTHINGS DIED EVERY DAY.
MY FATHER WAS KILLED OVER A BOWL OF RICE. MY MOTHER AND BROTHERS AND I SCRAPED TOGETHER WHAT SHELTER WE COULD IN THE REAR OF A STINKING ALLEY. WE LIVED ON STOLEN RICE AND BEGGING AND GARBAGE. WE HAD NOTHING.
THAT IS NOT QUITE TRUE. WE HAD THAT CRATE. THAT WAS WHERE WE LIVED. WE COVERED IT WITH RAGS AND TAR PAPER. IT GAVE A LITTLE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN ...FROM THE RATS AND WILD DOGS. GOD, HOW THE OTHERS ENVIED US. THAT'S HOW I LEARNED TO FIGHT. PROTECTING THAT DIRTY, BROKEN... BEAUTIFUL PACKING CRATE.
YEARS LATER, I RETURNED TO THE ALLEY AND FOUND THAT CRATE. IT MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME ONE, BUT I LIKE TO THINK IT IS. I KEEP IT TO REMEMBER...TO REMEMBER WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE POOR, AND THAT ONLY GOLD CAN KEEP ME FROM THE FILTH AND POVERTY OF THAT LIFE. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF JADE INCORPORATED... TO WRING ENOUGH GOLD FROM THE WORLD TO BE SAFE...
DESSERT, SIR?
I... I'M NOT HUNGRY...
THEN DIE, AMERICAN PIG!


NOT TODAY, THANKS.
JADE! LOOK OUT!
THERE'RE MORE COMING FROM THE KITCHEN!
JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS...DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN A RESTAURANT GOES DOWNHILL?
LET'S GO, BOYS!
AFTER THEM! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
15

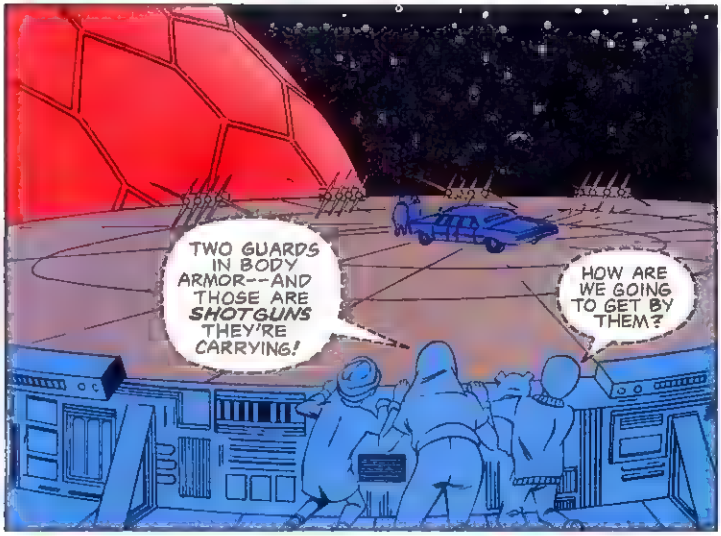

MORE MEN.. ANOTHER GANG.
THESE GUYS ARE MORE EFFICIENT THAN I GAVE THEM CREDIT FOR!
JADE! THEY'RE ON THE ROOF!
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A NICE WARM GRENADE LAUNCHER ABOUT NOW!
JEZEBEL JADE! INTO THE CAR, QUICKLY! THOSE ARE COLONEL NAHTI'S MEN! IT IS IN MY BEST INTERESTS TO KEEP YOU ALIVE, BUT THEY WILL KILL YOU OUT OF SHEER EXUBERANCE!
DR. ZIN!
I TRY TO KEEP MY GUESTS AMUSED.
WHOA! JUST LIKE A ROCKET!
WE'RE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!
JUST SO. I KEEP A SORT OF HIDEAWAY TUCKED AWAY UP HERE.
WE MUST GO QUICKLY. THEY WILL CHOP US TO PIECES IN HERE!
THIS CAR? HARDLY...
BESIDES, THIS CAR HAS MORE THAN ONE SURPRISE...
ZIN
16


I CALL IT MY SKY FORTRESS. SOLAR-POWERED BY DAY... RUN BY BATTERIES OF MY OWN DESIGN BY NIGHT.
THIS IS MY LITTLE STUDY. THESE BOOKS ARE FROM THE GREAT LIBRARIES OF THE WORLD. SOME HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN MISSED YET.
I MUST CONGRATULATE YOU ON A MOST EXCITING DAY, MISS JADE. DO YOU HAVE THE ITEM?
IT'S WHERE I CAN LAY MY HANDS ON IT. BUT THE STAKES ARE RAISED NOW. BOTH THE GRUNDY BROTHERS AND BEN HASSAN HAVE OFFERED ME MORE THAN YOU HAVE.
THE GRUNDYS ARE UNFORTUNATELY DECEASED. AND JUST AS YOU HAVE TAKEN SIR PERCY AS YOUR PARTNER...I TOO HAVE ENDED MY DIFFERENCES...
"...WITH BEN HASSAN."
NOW, JADE, TELL US WHERE THE OBJECT IS HIDDEN .OR DIE WHERE YOU SIT!

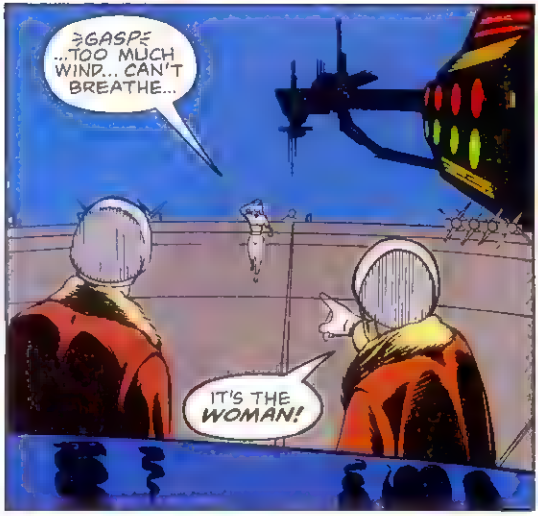
GEE, SINCE YOU ASK SO NICELY ...WHY NOT? BUT FIRST I WANT TO KNOW... WHAT MAKES THIS GADGET SO VALUABLE?
YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO...!
NOW, NOW, HASSAN. A LITTLE PATIENCE! IT IS VALUABLE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT TO BE THE OLDEST THING ON EARTH!
CALL IT MU, CALL IT HYPERBOREA ...CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL..BEFORE GREECE OR AEGYPT, BEFORE EVEN THE CRO-MAGNON HUNTERS, THERE WAS A PRIMAL CIVILIZATION OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER AND MIRACULOUS SCIENCE. MANY HAVE SCOFFED AT THIS, BUT IT IS TRUE.
SOME HAVE POSTULATED THAT THIS CULTURE WAS AN EARLY FLOWER ON THE HUMAN VINE, MUTATED AND STRANGE...OTHERS GUESS THAT IT WAS A COLONY FROM ANOTHER WORLD, THAT WE ARE THE RESULT OF THEIR GENETIC TINKERING UPON THE CLEVER APES THEY FOUND HERE.
BUT WHATEVER THE SOURCE, THIS CIVILIZATION FLOURISHED BEFORE THE ICE AGE AND ENDED IN SOME UNSPEAKABLE CATACLYSM...BUT THERE IS A MYTH THAT SOME REMNANTS OF HER MYSTIC SCIENCE REMAIN.
THAT IS WHAT YOU HOLD BRIEFLY IN YOUR POSSESSION... A TALISMAN OF IMMEASURABLE POWER FROM BEFORE THE DAWN OF TIME. THAT IS WHY I WILL DO ANYTHING... PAY ANYTHING...TO POSSESS IT!
18

HA! HA! HA! WILL THE MEETING OF THE SIDNEY GREENSTREET SOCIETY PLEASE COME TO ORDER? HA...HA...HA...!
SORRY.. EVERYBODY OUGHT TO HAVE A FAIRY TALE TO BELIEVE IN, I GUESS. I DO LIKE THE PART ABOUT "PAYING ANYTHING." WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THAT... IN THE MORNING.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M TOO TIRED TO THINK... I ASSUME WE'RE INVITED FOR THE NIGHT?
BUT, OF COURSE. SMEE, SHOW OUR GUESTS TO THEIR ...ROOMS.
GOSH, JONNY. THIS IS NOT A VERY NICE ROOM.
I WONDER WHERE JADE IS?
THIS DOOR DOES NOT EVEN HAVE A KEY-HOLE...WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
BEEP BEEP RRRRRR
JADE! HOW DID YOU GET THE DOOR OPEN?
I LIFTED THE SONIC KEY FROM THE GUARD AS HE LOCKED ME IN, OF COURSE
19

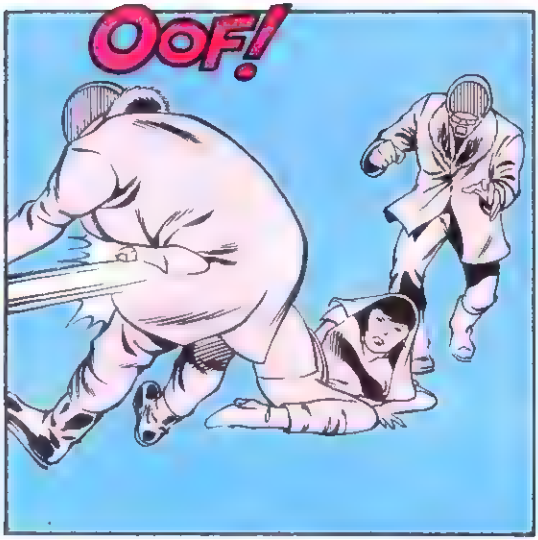
BUT I SUGGEST WE GET GONE... THEY'RE GOING TO MISS US BEFORE LONG!
A-RRWOOO-GA!
A-RRWOOO-GA!
THEY MISSED US!
GIVE ME YOUR SHOE, QUICKLY!
OKAY, BUT WHY ..?
WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL SEE IT AND THINK WE WENT DOWN! COME ON!
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO FIND THAT FLYING CAR.
IT'S SO COLD... HARD TO BREATHE
20

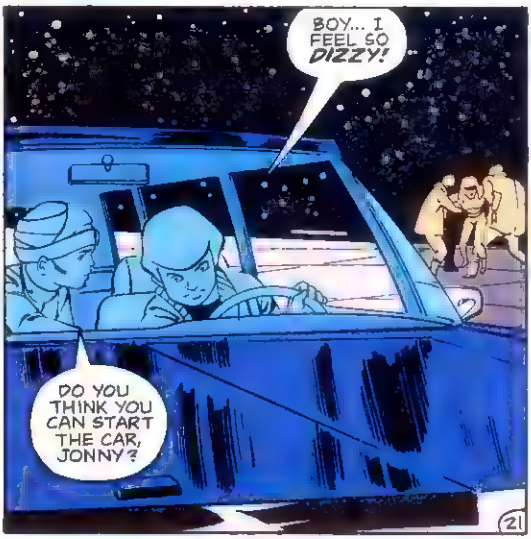

TWO GUARDS IN BODY ARMOR--AND THOSE ARE SHOTGUNS THEY'RE CARRYING!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET BY THEM?

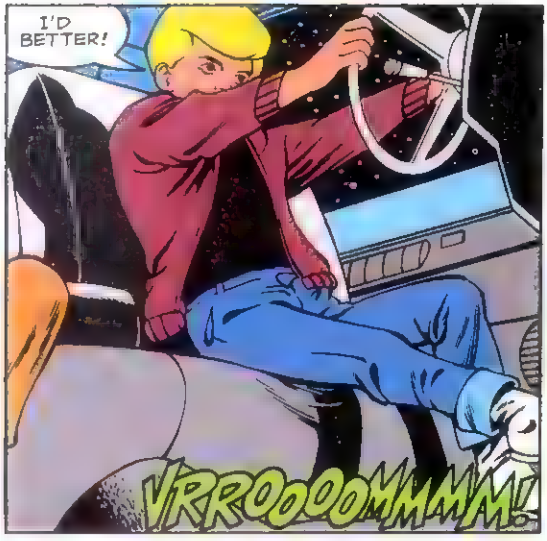
BR-EEEP!
THIS IS ZIN. THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED. THEY MAY MAKE AN ATTEMPT ON THE CAR...!

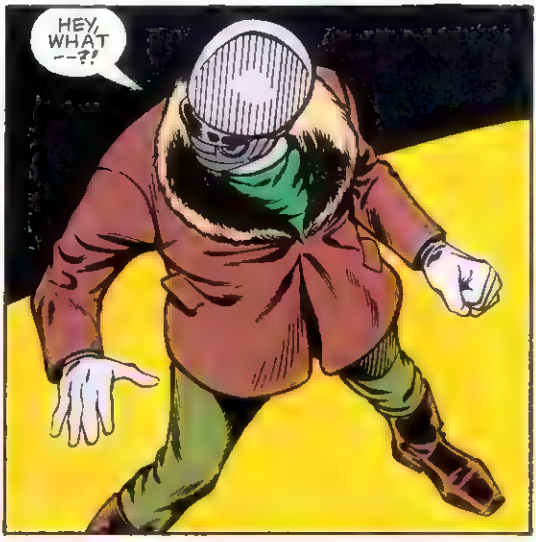

GASP ...TOO MUCH WIND... CAN'T BREATHE...
IT'S THE WOMAN!

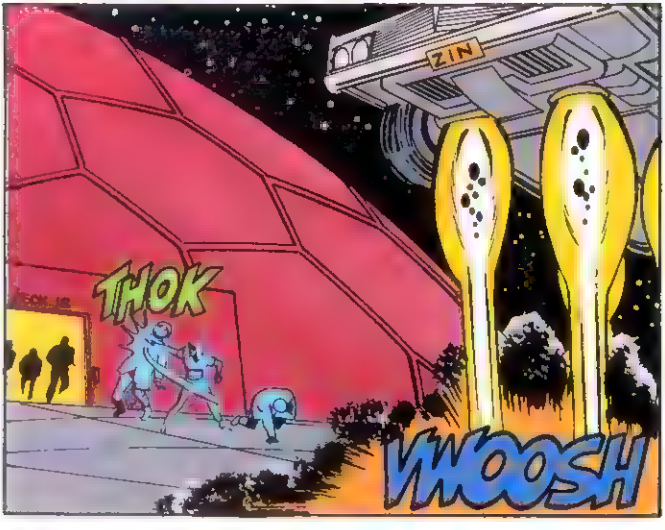
WELL, THAT WAS AN EASY CAPTURE. WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH HER?


OOF!

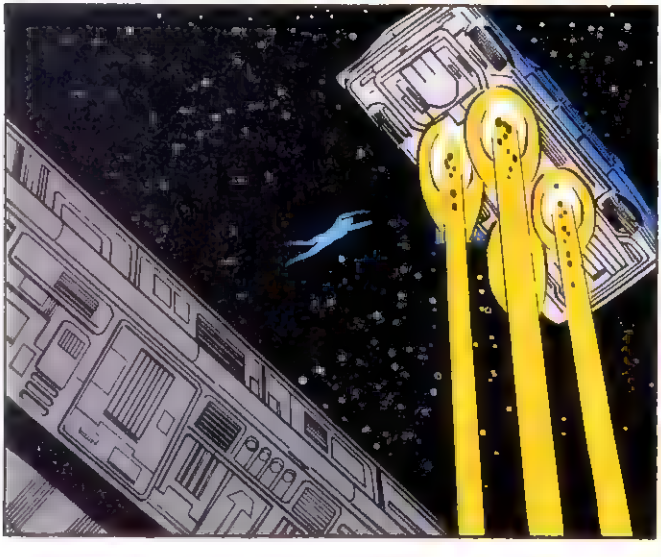

BOY... I FEEL SO DIZZY!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN START THE CAR, JONNY?

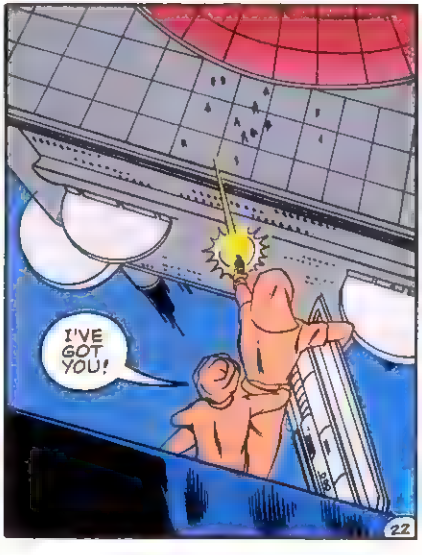

I'D BETTER!
VRROOOOMMMMM!

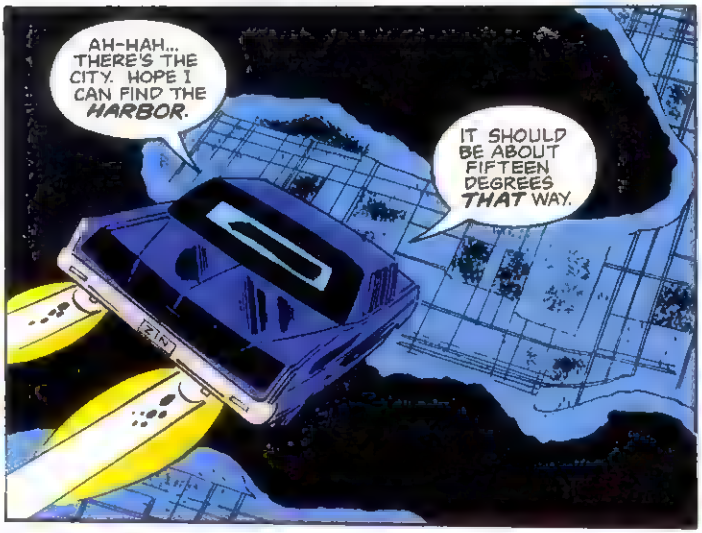

HEY, WHAT --?!


ZIN
THOK
VWOOSH

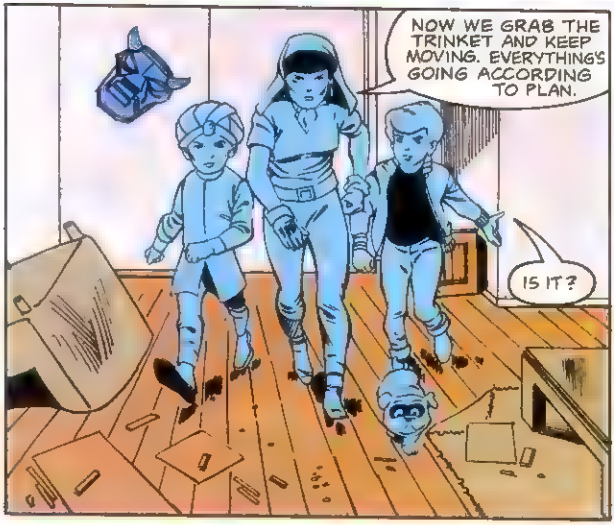
JUMP, JADE!

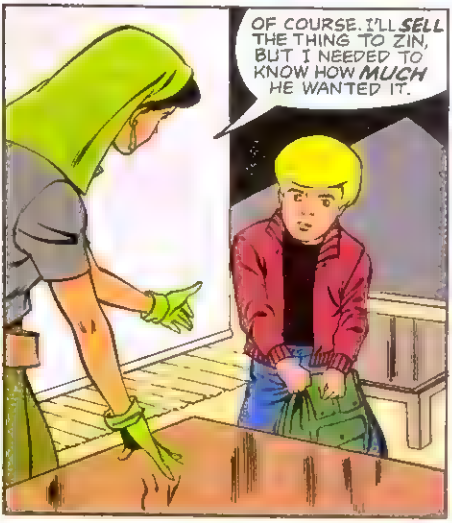



I'VE GOT YOU!


AH-HAH... THERE'S THE CITY. HOPE I CAN FIND THE HARBOR.
IT SHOULD BE ABOUT FIFTEEN DEGREES THAT WAY.

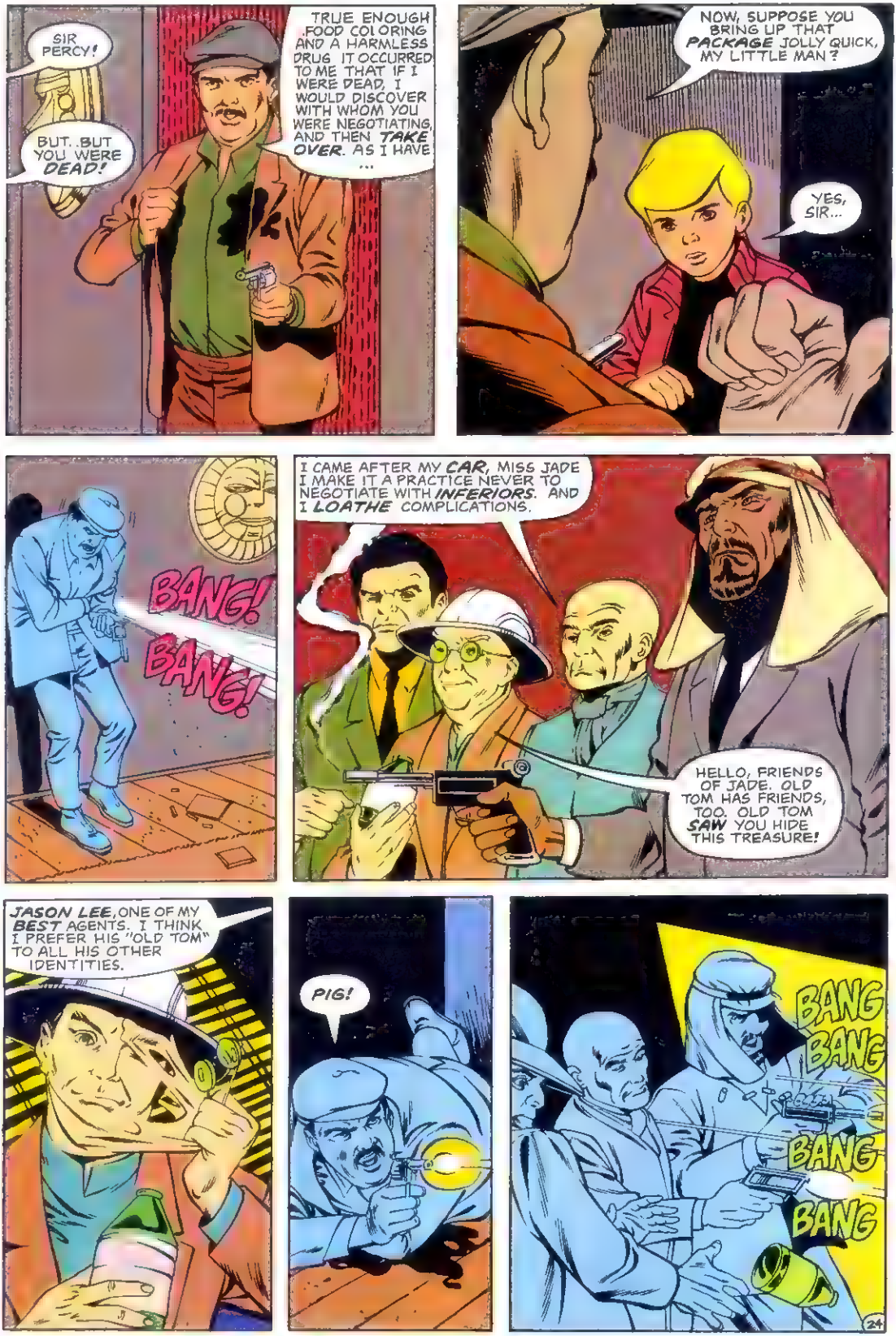
HOME SWEET HOME ... AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE BEAT THE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES HERE

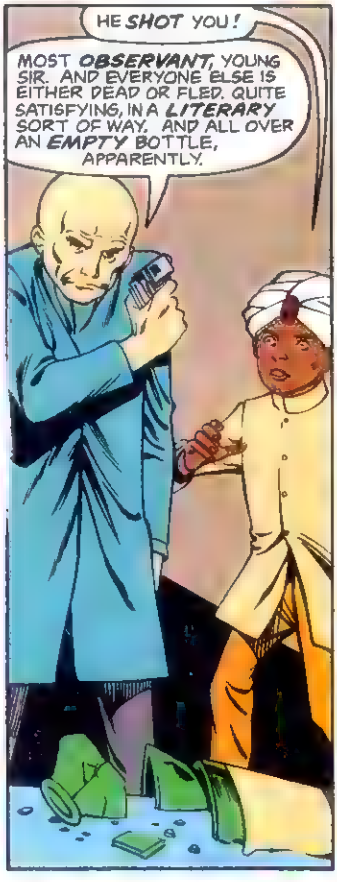

NOW WE GRAB THE TRINKET AND KEEP MOVING. EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
IS IT?

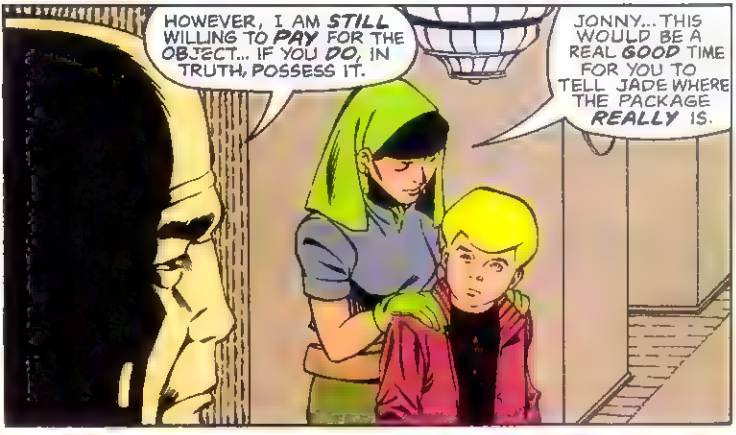

OF COURSE. I'LL SELL THE THING TO ZIN, BUT I NEEDED TO KNOW HOW MUCH HE WANTED IT.

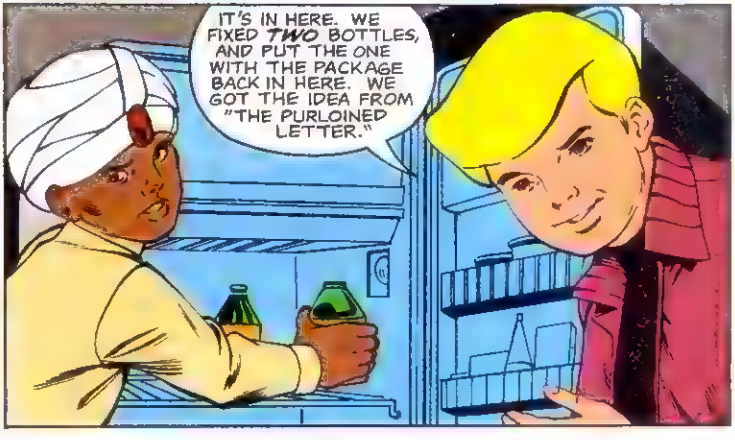
AND HE WANTS IT PLENTY! THIS COULD BE MY BIG SCORE... THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME... IF I KEEP HIM HUNGRY!

PERHAPS SO, BUT THE LIFETIME WILL BE MINE!

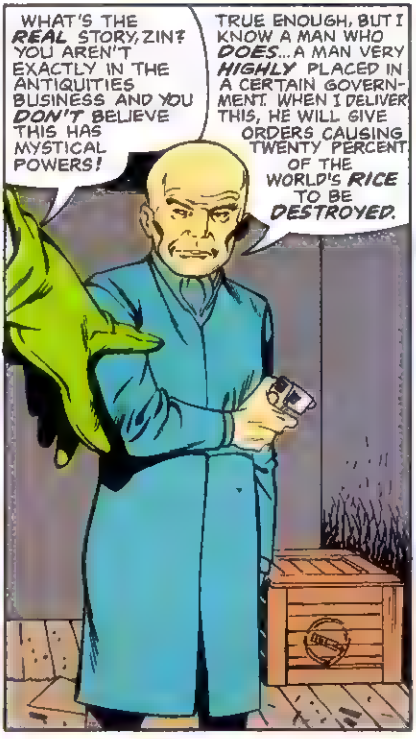

SIR PERCY!
BUT..BUT YOU WERE DEAD!
TRUE ENOUGH FOOD COLORING AND A HARMLESS DRUG. IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT IF I WERE DEAD, I WOULD DISCOVER WITH WHOM YOU WERE NEGOTIATING, AND THEN TAKE OVER. AS I HAVE ...
NOW, SUPPOSE YOU BRING UP THAT PACKAGE JOLLY QUICK, MY LITTLE MAN?
YES, SIR...
BANG!
BANG!
I CAME AFTER MY CAR, MISS JADE I MAKE IT A PRACTICE NEVER TO NEGOTIATE WITH INFERIORS. AND I LOATHE COMPLICATIONS.
HELLO, FRIENDS OF JADE. OLD TOM HAS FRIENDS, TOO. OLD TOM SAW YOU HIDE THIS TREASURE!
JASON LEE, ONE OF MY BEST AGENTS. I THINK I PREFER HIS "OLD TOM" TO ALL HIS OTHER IDENTITIES.
PIG!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
24


HE SHOT YOU!
MOST OBSERVANT, YOUNG SIR. AND EVERYONE ELSE IS EITHER DEAD OR FLED. QUITE SATISFYING, IN A LITERARY SORT OF WAY. AND ALL OVER AN EMPTY BOTTLE, APPARENTLY.

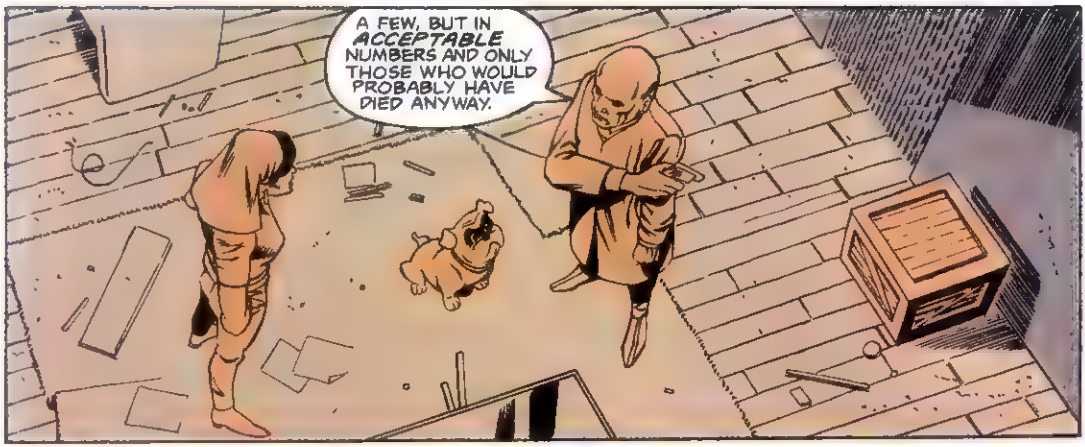

HOWEVER, I AM STILL WILLING TO PAY FOR THE OBJECT... IF YOU DO, IN TRUTH, POSSESS IT.
JONNY... THIS WOULD BE A REAL GOOD TIME FOR YOU TO TELL JADE WHERE THE PACKAGE REALLY IS.

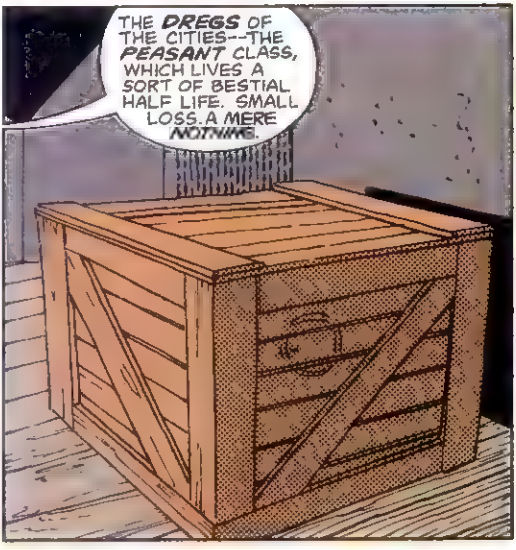

IT'S IN HERE. WE FIXED TWO BOTTLES, AND PUT THE ONE WITH THE PACKAGE BACK IN HERE. WE GOT THE IDEA FROM "THE PURLOINED LETTER."

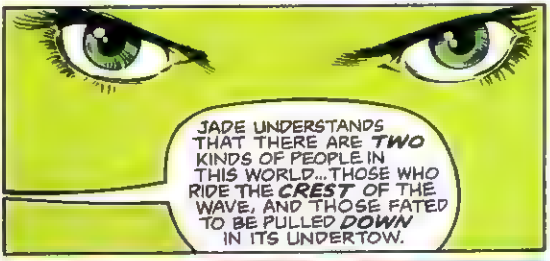
MOST SATISFACTORY. I SHALL RECOMMEND THE STORY TO WHAT REMAINS OF MY SECURITY STAFF.

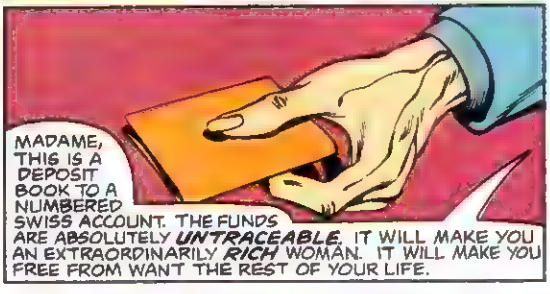

WHAT'S THE REAL STORY, ZIN? YOU AREN'T EXACTLY IN THE ANTIQUITIES BUSINESS AND YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS HAS MYSTICAL POWERS!
TRUE ENOUGH, BUT I KNOW A MAN WHO DOES... A MAN VERY HIGHLY PLACED IN A CERTAIN GOVERNMENT. WHEN I DELIVER THIS, HE WILL GIVE ORDERS CAUSING TWENTY PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S RICE TO BE DESTROYED.

I OWN THIRTY PERCENT OF WHAT REMAINS. AS THE PRICE RISES THROUGH SPECULATION, I WILL MAKE SEVERAL BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THAT IS MYSTICAL ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT IF YOU MAKE RICE MORE EXPENSIVE, WON'T PEOPLE STARVE?


A FEW, BUT IN ACCEPTABLE NUMBERS AND ONLY THOSE WHO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DIED ANYWAY.


THE DREGS OF THE CITIES--THE PEASANT CLASS, WHICH LIVES A SORT OF BESTIAL HALF LIFE. SMALL LOSS. A MERE NOTHING.


JADE UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD...THOSE WHO RIDE THE CREST OF THE WAVE, AND THOSE FATED TO BE PULLED DOWN IN ITS UNDERTOW.

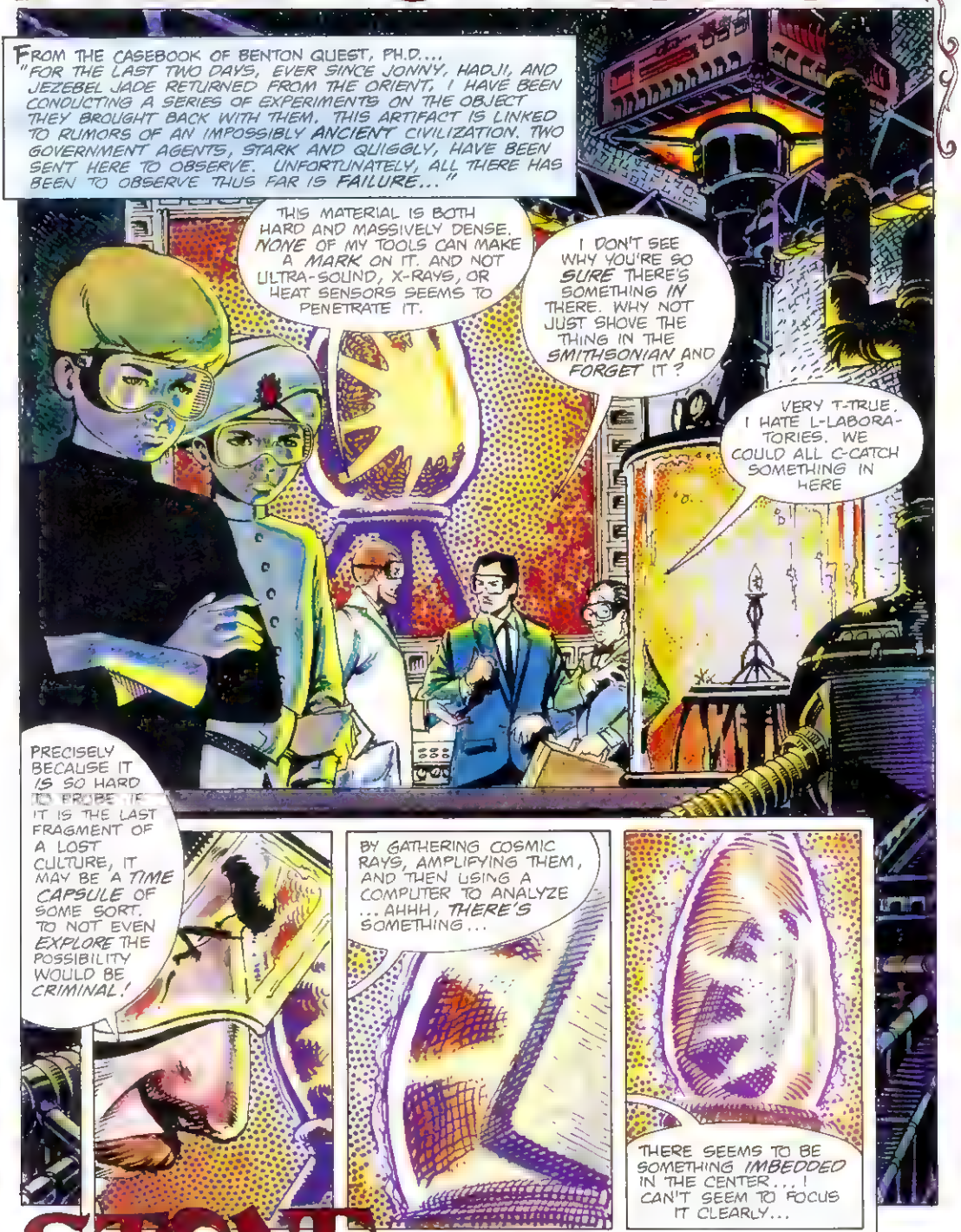

MADAME, THIS IS A DEPOSIT BOOK TO A NUMBERED SWISS ACCOUNT. THE FUNDS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNTRACEABLE. IT WILL MAKE YOU AN EXTRAORDINARILY RICH WOMAN. IT WILL MAKE YOU FREE FROM WANT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

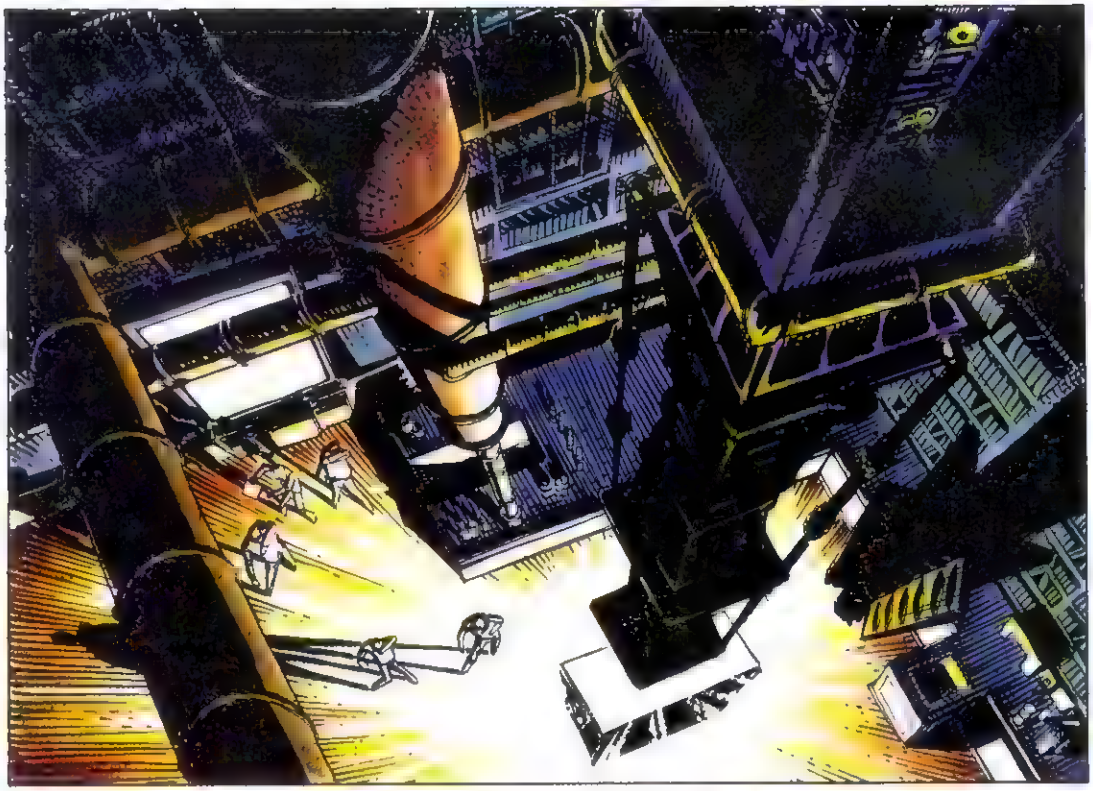
IT'S VERY NICE. GET OUT.
WHAT?

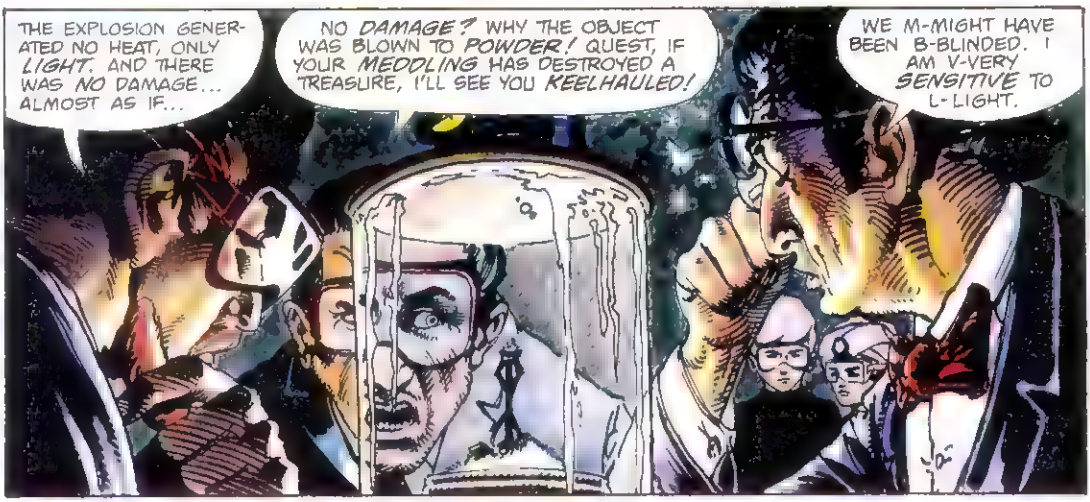
I'VE WORKED FOR YOU BEFORE... I MAY AGAIN. BUT NOT THIS TIME. HELLO, INTERPOL? THIS IS JEZEBEL JADE. DR. ZIN, THE ARMS DEALER AND TERRORIST, JUST ENTERED MY HOUSEBOAT. IF YOU HURRY, YOU MAY CATCH HIM.

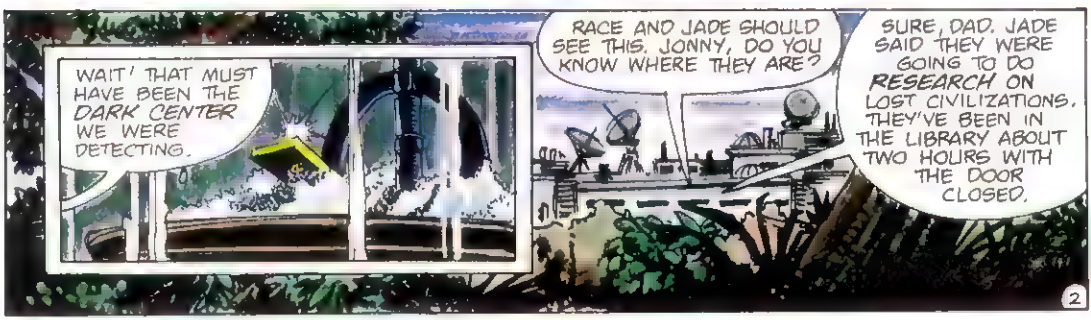
I'D LEAVE IF I WERE YOU. THEY DON'T LIKE YOU VERY MUCH
EXCELLENT ADVICE. YOU MAY COME TO REGRET THIS DECISION, MISS JADE. ONE DAY I MAY EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID IT.
IT WAS THE CRATE, WASN'T IT, JADE?
MAYBE. MAYBE IT WAS JUST TIME FOR ZIN TO LOSE ONE. IT'LL BE GOOD FOR HIS SOUL!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS TO YOUR DAD. IF ANYONE CAN FIGURE IT OUT, HE CAN.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY DON'T I COME WITH YOU? THE CLIMATE AROUND HERE SUDDENLY FEELS UNHEALTHY.
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T SEEN RACE IN A WHILE, AND EVERY WORKING GIRL DESERVES A VACATION!
JADE? WHO IS "SIDNEY GREENSTREET"?
OH, KID... HE'S THE STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!
The End

PHILOSOPHER'S STONE





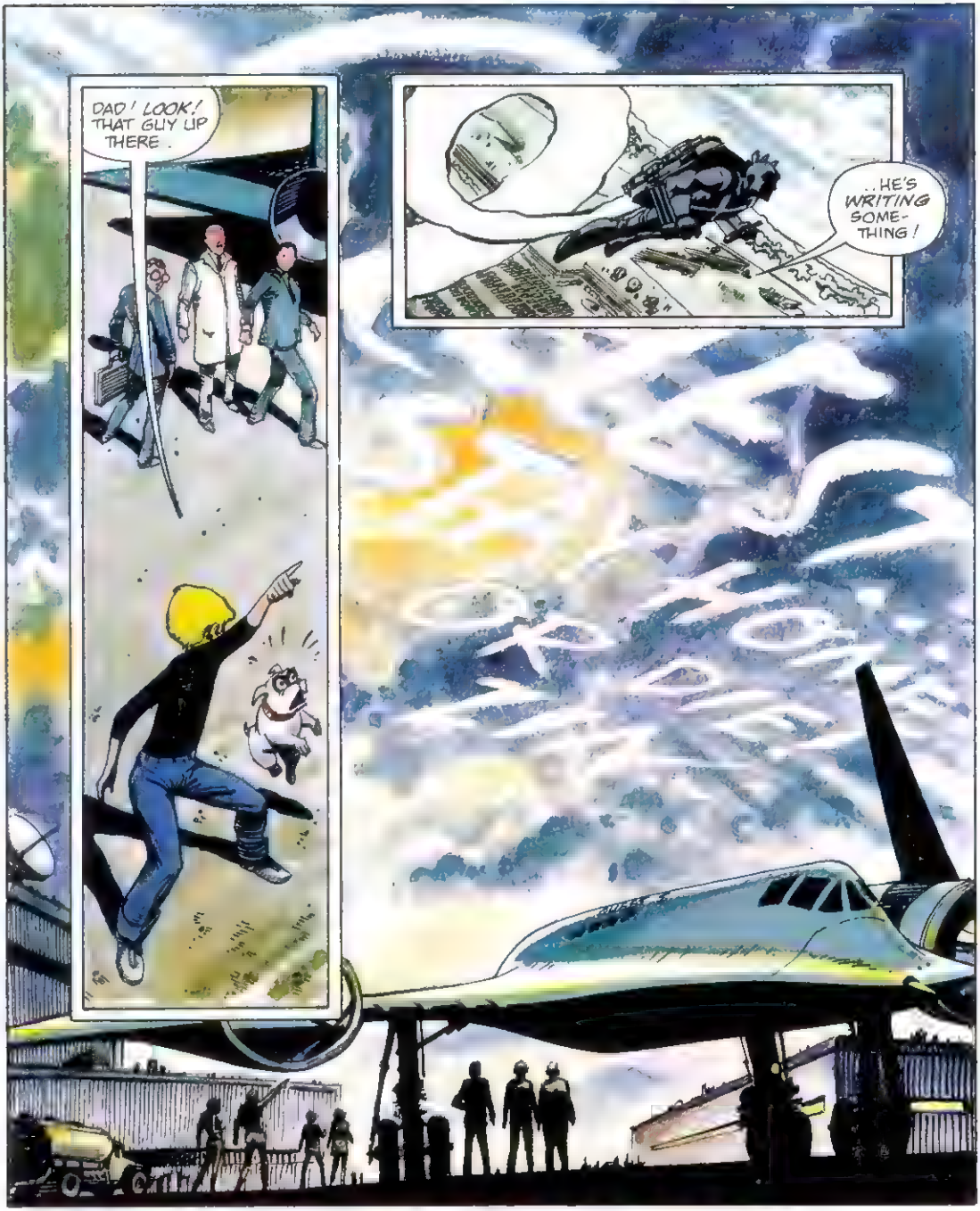

THE EXPLOSION GENERATED NO HEAT, ONLY LIGHT. AND THERE WAS NO DAMAGE... ALMOST AS IF...
NO DAMAGE? WHY THE OBJECT WAS BLOWN TO POWDER! QUEST, IF YOUR MEDDLING HAS DESTROYED A TREASURE, I'LL SEE YOU KEELHAULED!
WE M-MIGHT HAVE BEEN B-BLINDED. I AM V-VERY SENSITIVE TO L-LIGHT.

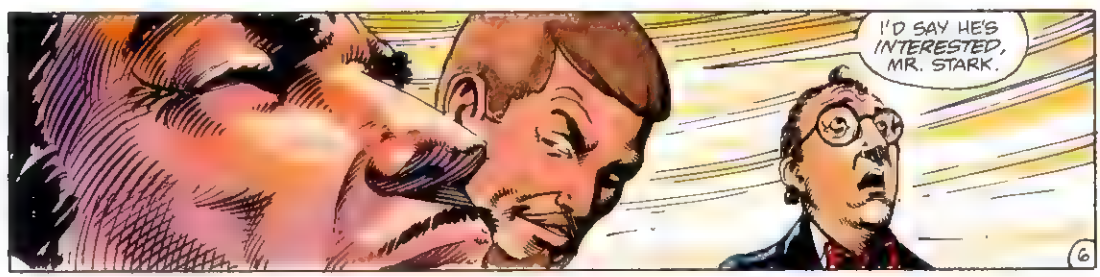

WAIT! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DARK CENTER WE WERE DETECTING.
RACE AND JADE SHOULD SEE THIS, JONNY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?
SURE, DAD. JADE SAID THEY WERE GOING TO DO RESEARCH ON LOST CIVILIZATIONS. THEY'VE BEEN IN THE LIBRARY ABOUT TWO HOURS WITH THE DOOR CLOSED.

GO AND GET THEM. TELL THEM WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING...
SON? KNOCK FIRST, OKAY?
SURE, DAD.
WHY KNOCK? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
OH, HE'S AFRAID WE'LL CATCH THEM KISSING OR SOMETHING
OH
KISSING! BLAAHHH!
"THIS NEW OBJECT IS, IF ANYTHING, MORE PUZZLING. IT IS OBVIOUSLY MAN-MADE AND THEN HARDENED IN SOME INEXPLICABLE WAY. NOT EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL LASER IS CAPABLE OF CUTTING IT. I THINK WE ARE AT THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN..."
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SURFACE IS PERFECTLY SMOOTH. NO GRAIN, NO BURRS, NO MILLING MARKS...
...AND YET IT CAME FROM A TIME BEFORE FLINT HAND-AXES.
WHEN I TOOK IT FROM DR ZIN, HE SAID IT WAS THE OLDEST THING ON EARTH--THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO VALUABLE.
RIGHT, I'LL BET THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
:SNIFF: :SNIFF: IS THERE A D-DOG IN H-HERE?

ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF A CRIME AS BORING AS LYING?
ALL I'M SAYING IS WE'RE BETTING A LOT ON INFORMATION A COUPLE OF LITTLE KIDS AND AN.. ADVENTURESS THINK THEY HEARD A CRIME BOSS SAY ABOUT A "LOST CIVILIZATION" FILLED WITH SUPER SCIENTISTS PRETTY FAR OUT--EH, QUIGGLY?
.'M SURE THERE'S A D-DOG... WHAT?
OH, NO, THE LEGENDS ALL D-DO CORRELATE, M-MR STARK EVEN T-TO THE P-POINT ABOJT A LOST K-KEY TO THE ANCIENT WISDOM
AND THERE IS THE EVIDENCE OF THE ITEM ITSELF. NO KNOWN TECHNOLOGY COULD HAVE PRODUCED IT. WE CAN'T EVEN GET A SCRAPING FOR THE SPECTRASCOPE. BUT IT'S COLD AND HEAVY LIKE METAL...HMMM. I WONDER...
HADJI, CAN YOU LEVITATE THIS?
I CAN TRY, DOCTOR.
WHAT?!
H-HE D-D-DID IT! IT'S R-RIGHT UP IN TH-THE AIR!
AND IT'S TURNING!
IT'S POINTING DUE NORTH. I WONDER IF IT MIGHT NOT BE MAGNETIZED.
SO WHAT? I DON'T GET IT.
4

YOU SEE, IF SUCH A CIVILIZATION EXISTED, THEY WOULD HAVE WANTED TO LEAVE A REPOSITORY OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE BEHIND FOR US... SOMEPLACE SAFE.
SO...?
AND THEY WOULD HAVE LEFT US A SIGN POST. A TALISMAN TO LEAD US THERE.
I S-SEE. THEY H-HAD TO F-ND A LANDMARK THAT WAS P-PERMANENT. S-SEAS CHANGE. M-MOUNTAINS CH-CHANGE, BUT THE P-POLES ARE ALWAYS TH-THERE!
JUST SO. AND IF WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT, SO CAN DR. ZIN.
WALK THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
THIS IS THE QUEST ONE. IT HAS VERTICAL FLIGHT CAPABILITIES, LIKE A HELICOPTER, AND CAN REACH MACH TWO WITHOUT STRAINING.
IT ISN'T EXACTLY BUILT FOR SEVEN PEOPLE, BUT I THINK WE CAN JERRY-RIG THREE MORE SEATS IN THE CARGO HOLD.
Y-YOU MEAN, F-FLY IN THAT T-TO THE P-POLE?
THIS IS PRETTY TYPICAL OF YOUR OPERATION, IF I MAY SAY SO, QUEST. FLYING FOUR THOUSAND MILES ON A WHIM. YOU DON'T KNOW IF THIS FELLOW ZIN IS EVEN INTERESTED IN YOUR LOST WORLD!
5


DAD! LOOK! THAT GUY UP THERE.
..HE'S WRITING SOME-THING!


I'D SAY HE'S INTERESTED, MR. STARK.
6

"IT HAS ONLY TAKEN US THREE HOURS TO GET THE PLANE LOADED AND IN THE AIR. WITH OUR FUEL EFFICIENCY, WE NEED ONLY STOP ONCE FOR SUPPLIES AND REFUELING... ASSUMING OUR CREW MEMBERS DON'T SHOOT EACH OTHER FIRST..."
I FINALLY CONTACTED WASHINGTON. THEY'RE ALL FOR THIS TRIP, SO I'M ALL FOR IT. I'M WITH YOU A THOUSAND PERCENT ON THIS!
I FIND THAT VERY COMFORTING, MR STARK.
WELL, I'M ARMED, SO IF THERE'S ANY TROUBLE..
PUT THE CANNON AWAY, STARK. IF IT GOES OFF AT THIS ALTITUDE, WE'LL ALL BE FLASH-FROZEN AND SUCKED OUT INTO SPACE!
NERVOUS, BANNON? PRETTY SOON YOU'LL BE CARRYING TRANQUILIZERS AND WORRY BEADS LIKE QUIGGLY!

I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW RICH THIS CAPER IS LIKELY TO MAKE US!
HARD TO TELL. THIS TREASURE COULD BE A PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, TRANSFORMING WHATEVER IT TOUCHES...
PHILOSOPHER'S STONE? ISN'T THAT WHAT ALCHEMISTS LOOKED FOR? A TALISMAN THAT TURNED LEAD INTO GOLD?
HMMM NOW THAT SOUNDS PROMISING!
SORT OF. THE ALCHEMISTS BELIEVED THAT IF THEY FOUND A WAY TO TRANSFORM LEAD, THEY WOULD ALSO BE TRANSFORMED--BY THE VERY ACT OF SEARCHING.
MUMBO-JUMBO! THE ONLY WAY SOMEONE LIKE QUIGGLY COULD BE TRANSFORMED WOULD BE WITH A SPINE TRANSPLANT! WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, DOC, IS IF YOU'LL VOUCH FOR JADE'S CONDUCT?
SHE'S A NOTORIOUS DOUBLE AGENT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING ON A TOP SECRET MISSION!
SLEEPING, AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME. IT MAY BE A WHILE BEFORE WE GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
JADE BROUGHT US THE ARTIFACT, STARK. SHE'D HAVE NO REASON TO STEAL IT.
NOW, I SUGGEST YOU FOLLOW HER ADVICE AND GET SOME REST. I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT QUIGGLY IS DOING.

YOU DO NOT LOOK VERY WELL, MR. QUIGGLY DO YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU A SANDWICH?
OOOHHH! WHY DON'T YOU JUST PUT A KN-KNIFE THROUGH MY H-HEART INSTEAD?
GEE. ALL THE KNIVES ARE PLASTIC AND..
JUST A burp! F-FIGURE OF SPEECH I'M A L-L-LITTLE AIRSICK, THAT'S ALL IF I GET S-SOME S-SLEEP, I'LL FEEL B-BETTER.
HERE YOU GO, MR QUIGGLY. I ALWAYS SLEEP BETTER WHEN BANDIT'S WITH ME
YAAAA! I KN-KNEW THERE WAS A D-D-DOG AROUND HERE! G-GET IT AWAY! I'M ALLERGIC T-TO D-D-DOGS!
OHHH MY SINUSES ARE F-FILLING UP LIKE LAKE ERIE, MY STOMACH FEELS LIKE I'VE B-BEEN EATING LOCOWEED. I'M B-BREAKING OUT IN HIVES FROM THIS WOOL B-BLANKET. .WHAT ELSE COULD GO WRONG?
KA-WHOOOM!!!
YAAAA!
HELP WHAT IS THIS?
9

KA-WHOOOMMMM
QUEST! WHAT THE DEVIL?!
DAD! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
LOOK OUT-SIDE!
QUEST 1
INCENDIARY GRENADES! I'D SAY DR. ZIN WAS SERIOUS!
KA-WHOOM

IF ONE OF THOSE HITS US, WE'LL GO UP LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE! HOLD TIGHT! I'M GOING TO TRY AND SHEER OFF!
THEY'RE GETTING OUR RANGE!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CLIMB!
I CAN'T SHAKE THEM!
WE'RE GOING ALMOST SIX HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR! HOW CAN UNPROTECTED HUMANS STAND IT?
LOOK, DAD! MORE OF THEM!
THIS IS INSANE! THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAY CONSCIOUS AT THIS HEIGHT... UNLESS...
...UNLESS THEY ARE SOME OF DR. ZIN'S ANDROIDS. HE'S A GENIUS AT ADVANCED CYBERNETICS! THAT GIVES US A CHANCE!

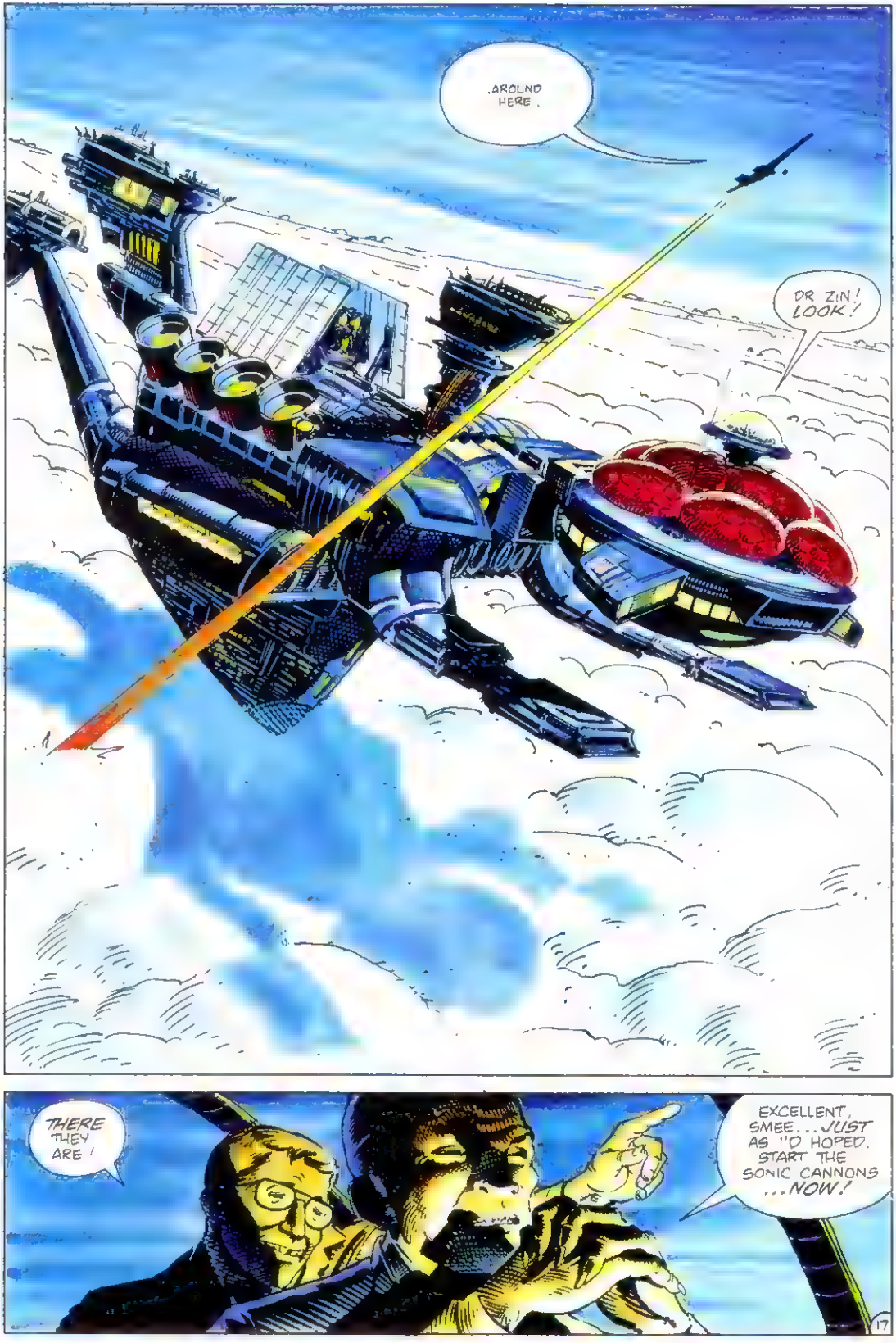
THIS PLANE IS EQUIPPED WITH SHORT-RANGE RADAR-JAMMING CAPABILITIES. IF I SET IT TO CUT ACROSS ALL RADIO FREQUENCIES, I MAY BE ABLE TO JAM THEM!
LET'S SEE!
CLICK
THEY'RE GOING CRAZY, DAD!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, QUICK, AND FIND A SPOT TO RE-FUEL. WE'RE GETTING LOW
"THIS SHOULD BE OUR LAST STOP BEFORE REACHING THE POLE. I ONLY HOPE ZIN IS FAR BEHIND US."
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. QUIGGLY?
OH, J-JUST P-PEACHY! I L-LOVE FLYING UPSIDE D-DOWN, WHILE ROBOTS T-TOSS HIGH EXPLOSIVES AT M-ME!
DO YOU HAVE THOSE FIGURES FOR ME, QUIGGLY?
Y-YES, I D-DO, MR. STARK. I'VE WORKED OUT THE P-PROBABILITIES FOR EACH ROUTE YOU G-GAVE ME... ALLOWING FOR W-WIND CURRENTS AND CURRENT LOW P-PRESSURE Z-ZONES. I'VE ALSO FIGURED IN THE LAST KNOWN P-POSITIONS OF THOSE R-R-R-ROBOTS..
GOOD, GOOD... I'LL GIVE THIS TO QUEST. HOW'RE THE OLD ALLERGIES HOLDING UP?
OH, I THINK I H-HAVE THAT P-PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL, TOO.

S-STAY B-BACK! S-STAY! THAT'S A NICE P-P-PUPPY!
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, QUIGGLY. YOU ALMOST HAD HIM OUTSMARTED!
YOU SEE. I'VE T-TRAINED HIM TO KEEP HIS DISTANCE. IT'S ALL A Q-QUESTION OF P-PLANNING AHEAD! ONCE YOU OUTSMART...
YAAAAA! NOOOOO!
BANDIT... NO!

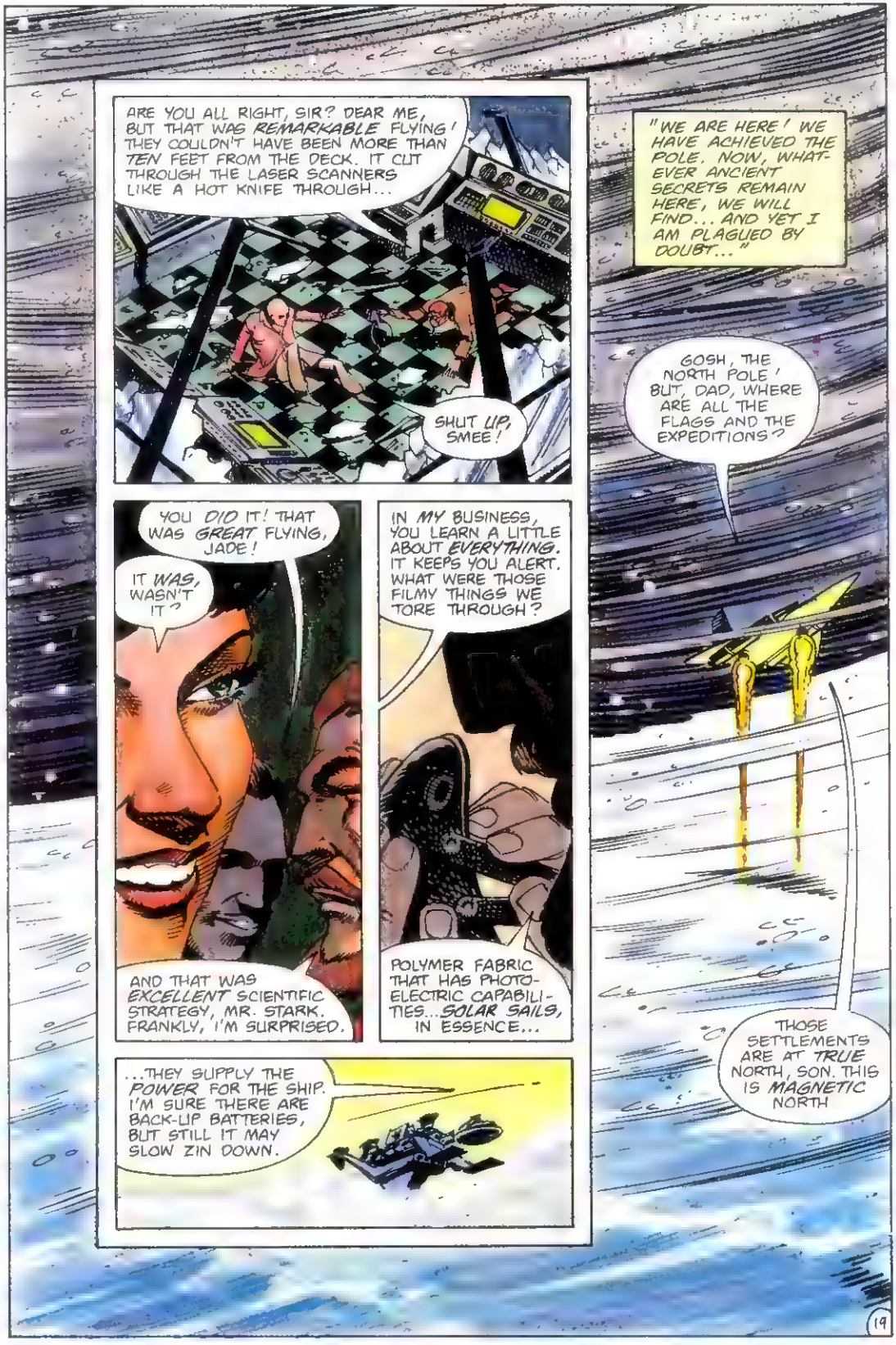
HERE'S THE ROUTE, DOC IT SHOULD THROW OFF PURSUIT. AND LET'S KEEP IT QUIET AROUND YOU-KNOW-WHO...
IF YOU MEAN JADE, THIS IS TOO SMALL AN EXPEDITION FOR SECRETS, MR STARK.
DON'T GO ALL SOFT AND IDEALISTIC ON ME, DOC ZIN'S PLAYING HARD-BALL HERE, AND WE'D BETTER WATCH OUR WEAK LINKS OR WE'RE GOING TO GET NAILED.
LISTEN, STARK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT SECURITY... IF JADE WANTED TO STEAL YOUR TEETH, YOU'D BE GUMMING OATMEAL FOR A WEEK BEFORE YOU KNEW THEY WERE GONE!
DID I HIT A NERVE, BANNON?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND AT THE POLE, MR. QUIGGLY?
I D-DON'T KNOW... M-MAYBE A SUPER S-SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY U-UNDER THE I-ICE. M-MAYBE THE RUINS OF V-VAST MACHINES. MAYBE A S-SIMPLE S-SYLVAN PARADISE, WHERE M-MEN HAVE L-LEARNED T-TO LIVE IN P-PEACE AND HARMON--
QUIGGLY! GET A MOVE ON! YOU'LL GET US ALL KILLED DAWDLING LIKE THIS! TRY AND BE A HELP FOR ONCE!
S-SO MUCH FOR F-FANTASY..
4

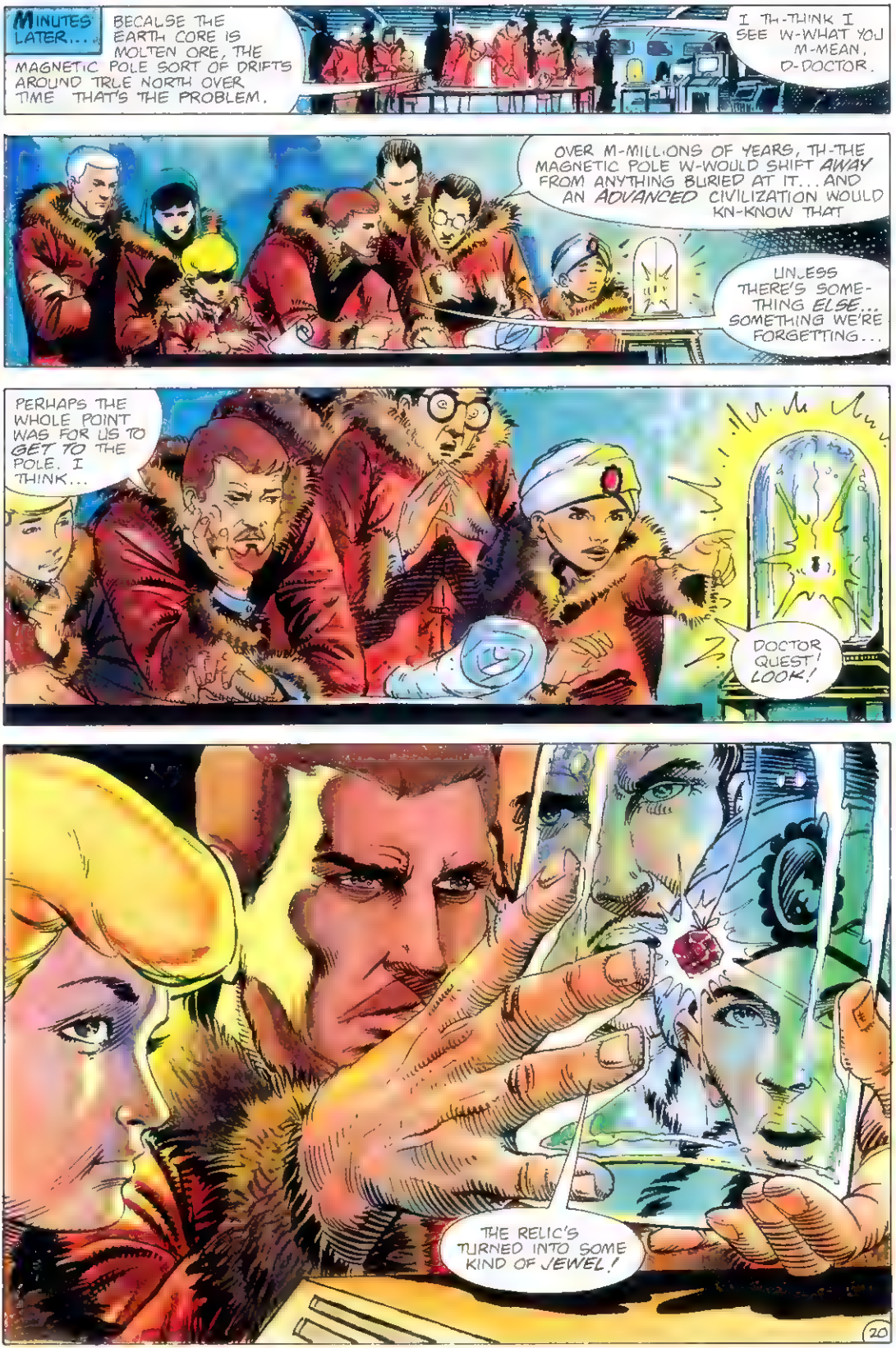
"WE HAVE BEEN FLYING THROUGH LOW CLOUD COVER FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. IT SEEMS THE BEST WAY TO FOIL PURSUIT, BUT IT IS STILL OPPRESSIVE AND OUR NERVES ARE FRAYED.."
THANKS FOR SPELLING ME AT THE CONTROLS, JADE.
NO PROBLEM, DOC
ARE RACE AND THE BOYS SLEEPING SOUNDLY?
YES. WE'LL ALL NEED TO BE RESTED WHEN WE REACH THE POLE.
SAY, DOC ONCE WE UNCOVER THEIR MACHINES AND WEAPONS, HOW LONG BEFORE YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO RUN THEM?
THAT DEPENDS. IMAGINE A BUSHMAN CONFRONTED WITH A MICROWAVE OVEN. AND IF, AS I SUSPECT, THE REMAINS ARE NOT STRICTLY MATERIAL...
...THE MONITOR! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO CONTACT US!
KRAKL
SPAT
SPAT
DR. ZIN!
GREETINGS, DR QUEST YOU HAVE IGNORED MY TWO PREVIOUS WARNINGS, SIR. IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO IGNORE THIS ONE! TURN BACK, SIR, AND LEAVE THE TREASURE TO ME. I AM ALREADY SUPREMELY POWERFUL.
OPPOSE ME IN THIS AND YOU SEAL YOUR DOOM!
KRAKOOM
NOW THERE'S AN ENEMY I CAN RESPECT... FORCEFUL, DECISIVE-- A REAL MAN
B-BUT, STARK.. HE'S IN-INSANE! HE'S OBSESSED WITH P-POWER!
BETTER TO BE OBSESSED WITH IT THAN AFRAID OF IT!
HE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE. GET US ABOVE THE CLOUDS, JADE!
ROGER, WILLCO, DOC!

IF ZIN KNOWS WHERE WE ARE AND HE REMAINS HIDDEN, WE'LL BE SITTING DUCKS!
THESE CLOUDS DON'T QUIT WILL THIS CRATE HOLD TOGETHER ABOVE FIFTY THOUSAND, DOC?
IT SHOULD STARK, GO BACK AND HAVE THE BOYS PUT ON OXYGEN MASKS... AND STARK? PUT ON ONE YOURSELF.
OH, LORD OXYGEN G-GIVES ME N-NOSEBLEEDS!
AT LAST! WE'VE CLEARED THE CLOUDS. NOW WE'LL SEE IF ZIN'S ANYWHERE. .


.AROUND HERE.
DR ZIN! LOOK!
THERE THEY ARE!
EXCELLENT, SMEE... JUST AS I'D HOPED. START THE SONIC CANNONS ...NOW!

KREEEEEEEEEEEEE!
ARGHH! WHAT IS IT?
SOME SORT OF INTENSE, HIGH FREQUENCY. ARGHH. SOUND WAVES...
THE PAIN. I CAN'T STAND IT!
DISRUPTING..PLANE'S...FUNCTION ..AGHHH... WE'LL BE TORN APART...!
CAN'T RUN... ONLY SAFE PLACE IS.. BEHIND THE PROJECTORS... GOT TO CHARGE...ZIN'S FORTRESS...
YOU GOT IT!
KRUSH
TROOM
KUZCH
BAR-KASH
VRRROOOOM
KRASSSHH!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR? DEAR ME, BUT THAT WAS REMARKABLE FLYING! THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN TEN FEET FROM THE DECK. IT CUT THROUGH THE LASER SCANNERS LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH...
SHUT UP, SMEE!
"WE ARE HERE! WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE POLE. NOW, WHATEVER ANCIENT SECRETS REMAIN HERE, WE WILL FIND... AND YET I AM PLAGUED BY DOUBT..."
GOSH, THE NORTH POLE! BUT, DAD, WHERE ARE ALL THE FLAGS AND THE EXPEDITIONS?
YOU DID IT! THAT WAS GREAT FLYING, JADE!
IT WAS, WASN'T IT?
AND THAT WAS EXCELLENT SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY, MR. STARK. FRANKLY, I'M SURPRISED.
IN MY BUSINESS, YOU LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT EVERYTHING. IT KEEPS YOU ALERT. WHAT WERE THOSE FILMY THINGS WE TORE THROUGH?
POLYMER FABRIC THAT HAS PHOTOELECTRIC CAPABILITIES...SOLAR SAILS, IN ESSENCE...
...THEY SUPPLY THE POWER FOR THE SHIP. I'M SURE THERE ARE BACK-UP BATTERIES, BUT STILL IT MAY SLOW ZIN DOWN.
THOSE SETTLEMENTS ARE AT TRUE NORTH, SON. THIS IS MAGNETIC NORTH


MINUTES LATER...
BECAUSE THE EARTH CORE IS MOLTEN ORE, THE MAGNETIC POLE SORT OF DRIFTS AROUND TRUE NORTH OVER TIME THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
I TH-THINK I SEE W-WHAT YOU M-MEAN, D-DOCTOR.
OVER M-MILLIONS OF YEARS, TH-THE MAGNETIC POLE W-WOULD SHIFT AWAY FROM ANYTHING BURIED AT IT... AND AN ADVANCED CIVILIZATION WOULD KN-KNOW THAT
UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING WE'RE FORGETTING...
PERHAPS THE WHOLE POINT WAS FOR US TO GET TO THE POLE. I THINK...
DOCTOR QUEST! LOOK!
THE RELIC'S TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF JEWEL!
20

I DON'T GET IT, DOC. HOW DOES THIS GET US CLOSER TO THE TREASURE?
THIS IS THE TREASURE, UNLESS I'M BADLY MISTAKEN.
WE ARE ABLE TO COMPRESS WHOLE LIBRARIES INTO A SQUARE INCH OF MICROFILM ... AND WITH THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OF ETCHING ELECTRONS, THERE WILL BE VIRTUALLY NO LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION WE COULD STORE.
I BELIEVE THIS CONTAINS THE COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOST CULTURE.
BUT WHY THE NORTH POLE?
REMEMBER THAT THE OUTER SHELL DETERIORATED WITH AN ATTENTION-RAISING FLASH WHEN EXPOSED TO AUGMENTED COSMIC RAYS. I THINK THIS IS ALL A SORT OF TEST, TO MAKE SURE WHATEVER CULTURE UNCOVERED THEIR WISDOM WAS ADVANCED ENOUGH TO USE IT.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT IT UNDER THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE.
YOU SEE THE STRIATIONS?
I'M SURE THAT IS SOME FORM OF INFORMATION STORAGE.
BUT THERE ARE MICROFILM READERS TO MAKE MICROFILM VISIBLE. HOW CAN WE READ INFORMATION THAT'S SO INCREDIBLY SMALL?
WE CAN'T.
OH LOOK! DAD!
21

IT'S ZIN. HE'S CAUGHT UP WITH US. IF ONLY WE HAD THE INFORMATION IN THIS JEWEL...
THEY HAD TO HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS.
SOME WAY TO DECODE THE INFORMATION...
...SIMPLE...
.ELEGANT.
QUIGGLY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T YOU SEE, DOCTOR? IT'S THE ONLY WAY! SIMPLE...ELEGANT! THE BIO-ELECTRIC PROCESSES OF THE BODY WILL DECODE THE INFORMATION AND...AND...
THE STRAIN OF SO MUCH NEW INFORMATION MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIS MIND.
HE'S GONE INTO A COMA!
DR. QUEST, SIR WE MUST TALK!

I AM AT THE END OF MY PATIENCE! RENDER UP THE TREASURE NOW OR BE DESTROYED!
I WONDER IF HE'D BELIEVE US IF WE TOLD HIM QUIGGLY JUST SWALLOWED IT
HE'S SENDING THE ANDROIDS AGAIN. HUNDREDS OF THEM!
COME ON! WE'LL SHOW 'EM WHAT WE'RE MADE OF! AT LEAST WE'LL TAKE A FEW OF THE METAL BOOGERS WITH US!
BOOM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HE GOT ONE!
NO, WAIT THEY ARE ALL EXPLODING!
OF C-COURSE THEY ARE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS V-VISUALIZE A SQUARE INTERSECTING A C-CONE IN FOUR DIMENSIONS... THEN, INVERT. THE P-POINT OF THE CONE B-BECOMES A SPECK OF ANTI-MATTER!
THEN IT WORKED? YOU HAVE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION?

OH, YES ..IT'S F-FASCI-NATING.
THEY HAD NO MACHIN-ERY...NO BUILDINGS ...THEY HAD EVOLVED B-BEYOND THAT.
A-ALL THEIR TECH-NOLOGY WAS MENTAL.
THAT EXPLAINS THE HARDNESS OF THEIR METALS...THE MOLECULES MUST HAVE BEEN MADE DENSE PSYCHO-KINETICALLY.
EXCUSE ME, GUYS, BUT THAT BIG FLYING DUNGEON IS ALMOST ON TOP OF US!
H-HERE'S AN A-AMUSING THOUGHT! WHAT IF THOSE SONIC C-CANNONS WERE TO FIRE AT EACH OTHER? N-NOW, H-HOW WOULD I D-DO THAT? F-FIRST, THINK OF A SQUARE...
DR. ZIN! THE CANNONS ARE SWIVELING BY THEM-SELVES!
QUICKLY! MANUAL OVER-RIDE!
KEEEEEEEEEE
KA-BOOOM
GET US OUT OF HERE... QUICKLY!
HURRAY! YOU BEAT THEM! YOU BEAT THEM!
YOU DESTROYED HIS SONIC CANNONS! YOU ANNIHILATED HIS ARMY OF KILLER ROBOTS! YOU SAVED US ALL!
BUT D-DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY EXCITING? MY S-SINUSES HAVE C-CLEARED UP!

"WE FLEW AT ONCE TO WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE QUIGGLY HAS BEEN TESTED FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS. I WISH RACE WERE HERE... HE IS AT THE AIRPORT SAYING GOODBYE TO JADE. I FEEL... UNEASY..."
S-SO, ANYWAY, THE D-DOCTOR DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, THAT I COULD CH-CHANGE MATTER JUST BY THINKING OF GEOMETRIC SHAPES...SO I SQUEEZED A LUMP OF C-COAL INTO A D-DIAMOND.
W-WAS HE S-SURPRISED!
QUEST.. I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU
AND THEN I PULLED A RABBIT OUT OF A THIMBLE!
I JUST CAME FROM THE FINAL MEETING ON QUIGGLY. WE'RE ALL AGREED! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS, QUEST.. TOO POWERFUL.
YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME SUBDUE HIM!
WHAT? I'LL DO NO SUCH THING!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! DON'T YOU SEE? HE CAN DO ANYTHING! WE'LL SEDATE HIM WITH GAS, THEN RESTRAIN HIM IN A SECRET LAB DEEP UNDER THE MOUNTAINS... IN CASE WE EVER NEED HIM. IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
MP
MP
QUIGGLY! SAVE YOURSELF! THEY'RE GOING TO ARREST YOU!
25

DON'T BE SILLY, DR QUEST
WHY, THESE G-GENTLEMEN AREN'T E-EVEN ARMED!
MP
THIS DOES SEEM L-LIKE A G-GOOD TIME TO LEAVE, THOUGH.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO CHANGE THE WORLD..
...TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
NOW I CAN...
GOODBYE.
YOU IDIOT, QUEST! NOW HE'S ESCAPED! YOU HEARD HIM! HE'LL DESTROY US ALL! HE'S OBSESSED BY POWER!
WELL, IT IS BETTER TO BE OBSESSED BY POWER THAN TO BE FRIGHTENED BY IT -- ISN'T IT, MR STARK?
I'M GLAD YOU HELPED MR QUIGGLY ESCAPE, DAD. YOU DON'T THINK HE'S REALLY DANGEROUS, DO YOU?
SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE, JONNY. I THINK HE'S LIKE THE REST OF US... MORE POWERFUL, OF COURSE, BUT WITH THE SAME TANGLE OF EMOTIONS.

HE'S TRYING TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF BY TRANSFORMING THE WORLD. I DON'T THINK WE CAN HELP HIM, AND I DOUBT WE CAN STOP HIM WE CAN ONLY WISH HIM WELL...AND MAYBE PRAY.
William Messner-Loebs · Story
Adam Kubert · Art, Letters, Colors
Dana Schutz · Edits

Kathleen Martin, caseworker
Department of Social Services
Protective Division

Dear Dr. Quest:
I am writing you yet again to ~~request~~ ~~that~~ insist that you file complete reports with this office on the progress of your son's home schooling. Nor have we received Form EP-117, giving Rode Bannon's qualifications as a teacher. It is ~~very~~ vitally important that we are given this information. I have grave concerns over the education that your son Jonathan and your ward, Hadji, are being giv

THIS'LL KEEP TILL MONDAY. MY HEAD'S *SPLITTING!*

I'M STARTING A NEW FENCING CLASS AT THE *YW*. WANT TO COME?

FRAID NOT. I'M HAVING DINNER WITH MOM. BESIDES, DIANE, THOSE CLASSES *NEVER* WORK OUT FOR ME. REMEMBER THE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS? I WRENCHED MY KNEE SO BADLY. I COULDN'T *WALK* FOR A WEEK.

WHAT I'D *REALLY* LIKE TO DO IS SOAK IN A *HOT TUB*. I THINK I'M CATCHING A COLD.

THAT'S A NICE OUTFIT.

THANKS. IT'S A PRESENT FROM MY MOM. *SHE* LOVES GRAY!

ASHBURY WANTS TO SEE YOU, KATHY.

THANKS, DICK. AH THE *ROYAL SUMMONS*. MAYBE HE'S NOTICED IT'S BEEN OVER A *YEAR* SINCE I WAS UPGRADED.

MAYBE SO.

YES, SIR. YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

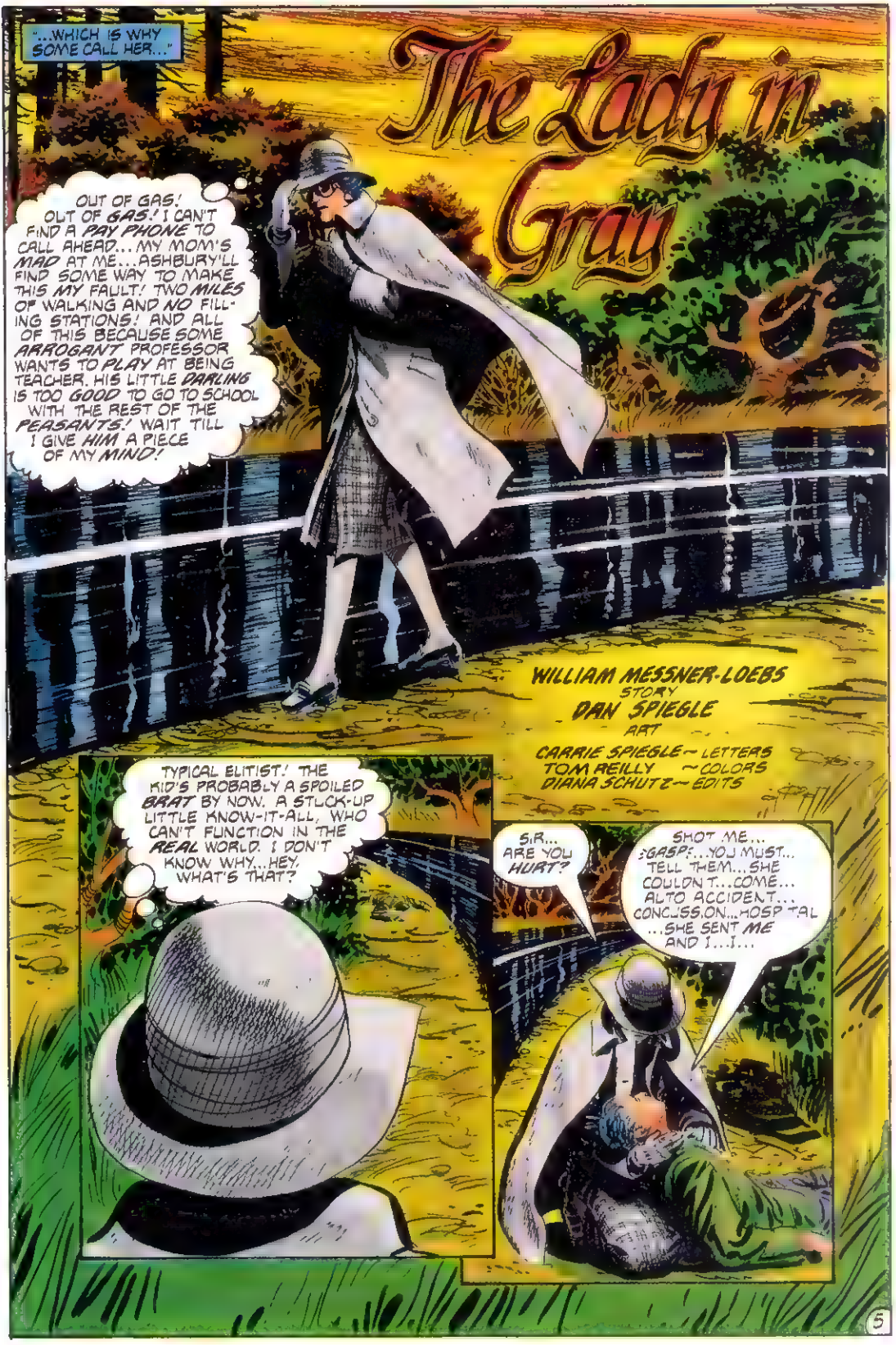
DON'T BOTHER TO SIT DOWN, MARTIN. YOU'RE IN A LOT OF

"MAYBE NOT..."

ELSEWHERE, ABOARD A SHIP THAT HOVERS ABOVE THE HIGHEST CLOUDS...
TROUBLE, DR. ZIN?
ONLY A SETBACK SMEE. THE MEN HAVE LOST THE REST OF THE PACK. THE LITTLE DEVILS SCATTERED IN THE FOREST. IT WILL TAKE DAYS TO ROUND THEM UP.
NO MATTER. FOR OUR PURPOSES, ONE SPECIMEN WILL DO!
YES, SIR. THE WORLD WILL CRINGE BEFORE YOU, SIR.
SLEEP?
WHO CARES ABOUT THE WORLD, SMEE? THE WORLD ALWAYS CRINGES! I WANT THEIR OBEDIENCE, NOT THEIR FEAR! AND FOR THAT, I NEED BENTON QUEST!
ONLY QUEST WILL UNDERSTAND. AND BECAUSE IT IS QUEST, HE WILL MAKE THEM BELIEVE. AND THAT BELIEF WILL ENSLAVE THEM!
PREPARE THE ATTACK, SMEE! I WILL HAVE QUEST TODAY! TWICE BEFORE HE HAS HUMILIATED ME. TWICE, BUT NO MORE! HE SHALL BE MY PAWN. AND ANY-ONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY WILL BE SEVERELY...
2

...DEALT WITH, MR. ASHBURY?
THAT IS YOUR JOB, MARTIN. AND AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING ON THIS QUEST MATTER
BUT, SIR, I'VE WRITTEN SEVERAL LETTERS...
IF YOU HAD BEEN DOING THAT JOB, YOU WOULD HAVE ALREADY VISITED THE GOOD PROFESSOR AND MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT HE IS RISKING SEVERE PENALTIES BY KEEPING THOSE BOYS OUT OF SCHOOL.
THEN MAKE TIME; I'M NOT INTERESTED IN EXCUSES. AFTER THE WAY YOU HANDLED THE MILLER AFFAIR, I'D THINK YOU'D BE EAGER TO REDEEM...
BUT I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT IN THE LETTERS, AND WITH MY CASE LOAD I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME...
BUT YOU LOST THOSE FILES....
WHICH HAVE DONE NO GOOD AT ALL. OBVIOUSLY, QUEST IS PATHOLOGICALLY STUBBORN. LIKE MOST ACADEMICS, HE FANCIES HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW. IT IS OUR JOB, YOUR JOB, TO SEE THAT HE ISN'T.
YOU'LL DISCOVER, MARTIN, THAT WHOEVER MAKES OUT THE REPORT HAS THE LAST WORD. NOW, I WANT YOU TO VISIT THE QUESTS TONIGHT AND...
TONIGHT? BUT I CAN'T...!
CAN'T, MARTIN? IN HERE IS MY EVALUATION OF YOUR WORK FOR THE LAST YEAR. IT'S BASICALLY SOUND. I WOULD HATE TO HAVE TO CHANGE IT. THIS QUEST BUSINESS IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ME, AND I WANT IT FINISHED. DO YOU...
3

...UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS, DOC?
LAST THURSDAY ZIN KIDNAPPED VAN DER TORK, THE WORLD'S LEADING SPECIALIST IN TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE ACCELERATION OF SUB-MOLECULAR PARTICLES. ZIN HAS ALWAYS DREAMED OF TIME TRAVEL, BUT IF HE USES TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT...THE SIDE EFFECTS COULD BE TERRIBLE.
ENOUGH, RACE. WE'RE LUCKY YOU INTERCEPTED DOCTOR ZIN'S COURIER. IF I READ THIS CODE CORRECTLY, WE WILL BE ATTACKED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS. BUT THESE EQUATIONS CONCERN ME MOST.
FORTUNATELY, I MANAGED TO CONTACT LADY AGATHA FITZHUGH. SHE SHOULD BE HERE AT ANY TIME.
WHO'S SHE, DOC? A SCIENTIST?
YES, BUT MUCH MORE THAN THAT. SHE'S A PHILOSOPHER, METAPHYSICIST, AND AN EXPERT IN ARCANE SCIENCE. WE'VE CORRESPONDED FOR YEARS, BUT WE HAVE NEVER MET.
WELL, I'VE SURE NEVER HEARD OF HER.
SHE PREFERS TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES, BUT IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD, SHE'S WORSHIPPED AS A GODDESS. SHE'S STRONG AS AN OX, QUICK AS A VIPER, WITH AN INTELLECT THAT CUTS LIKE A KNIFE. DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE GHOST RATS OF LING-RHE?
ONLY RUMORS. THAT CASE WAS CLASSIFIED "EYES ONLY."
WELL, SHE WAS INVOLVED IN THAT. SHE'S A WORLD CLASS FENCER AND A SURE SHOT. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, SHE'S THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH OF WHOM DR. ZIN IS AFRAID. NOT TO SAY SHE ISN'T ECCENTAIC. SHE ONLY WEARS ONE COLOR HEAD TO TOE...
4


...WHICH IS WHY SOME CALL HER...
The Lady in Gray
OUT OF GAS! OUT OF GAS! I CAN'T FIND A PAY PHONE TO CALL AHEAD... MY MOM'S MAD AT ME... ASHBURY'LL FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE THIS MY FAULT! TWO MILES OF WALKING AND NO FILLING STATIONS! AND ALL OF THIS BECAUSE SOME ARROGANT PROFESSOR WANTS TO PLAY AT BEING TEACHER. HIS LITTLE DARLING IS TOO GOOD TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH THE REST OF THE PEASANTS! WAIT TILL I GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS
STORY
DAN SPIEGLE
ART
CARRIE SPIEGLE ~ LETTERS
TOM REILLY ~ COLORS
DIANA SCHUTZ ~ EDITS
TYPICAL ELITIST! THE KID'S PROBABLY A SPOILED BRAT BY NOW. A STUCK-UP LITTLE KNOW-IT-ALL, WHO CAN'T FUNCTION IN THE REAL WORLD. I DON'T KNOW WHY... HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
SIR... ARE YOU HURT?
SHOT ME... GASP!... YOU MUST... TELL THEM... SHE COULDN'T... COME... AUTO ACCIDENT... CONCUSSION... HOSPITAL ...SHE SENT ME AND I... I...

HE'S DEAD... HE JUST... DIED. HELP... I'VE GOT TO GET HELP!
THERE'S A MAN BACK THERE...
I CAN'T TALK NOW ...TOO BUSY!
WAIT... PLEASE!
MUST DELIVER THESE. NO TIME!
WHAT A PAIR OF BRATS! RUDE...SELF-INVOLVED...
WHAT... OOOHHHH!
WHHHHISST!

WHAT WAS THAT?
ZAP ZAP
I'VE HEARD THAT QUEST TESTS SOME STRANGE EQUIPMENT, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS! SOMEONE COULD GET KILLED! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE MAIN HOUSE OVER THERE
YIPE!
ZAP ZAP
DR. QUEST! I...!
LADY AGATHA! THANK HEAVENS! I WAS AFRAID THEY'D STOPPED YOU!
LADY AGATHA? I...
QUICK, DOC! I'VE GOT THE DISRUPTOR RIFLES BUT THE ROBOT FIGHTERS ARE RIGHT BEHIND ME. TWO OF THE REAR SHEDS ARE ON FIRE AND 2 N'S GOT CARGO GLIDERS OFF-LOADING SURFACE MINES. IF WE WANT TO GO, IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT. I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW TO FLY ONE OF THESE DO I, LADY AGATHA? AFTER ALL, YOU INVENTED THEM!
I... I...
7

BRILLIANT STRATEGY! KEEP LOW AND PRESENT A SMALL PROFILE TO THE ENEMY!
THIS WAY! MAKE A BREAK FOR THE PLANE!
THERE IT IS! JUST AHEAD!
WE CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE HANGAR! THERE'RE TOO MANY OF THEM!
THERE GOES LADY AGATHA. SHE'S LEADING THEM AWAY FROM US!
I WONDER HOW YOU STEER THIS THING?

GOSH, DAD. WHAT ABOUT LADY AGATHA?
DON'T WORRY, SON. LADY AGATHA ONCE ESCAPED FROM A SIBERIAN PRISON CAMP, USING ONLY A BENT POSTAL CARD AND A BALL OF TWINE. SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.
SHE CAN MAKE AN ELEPHANT STOP IN MID-CHARGE BY...
WHAT IS THAT UP AHEAD?
IT LOOKS LIKE...OH, NO! I CAN'T MAKE THE SHIP RESPOND. THE CONTROLS ARE POLARIZED!
THEY VANISHED! IT WORKS, DR. ZIN!
OF COURSE IT WORKS. I KNOW IT WORKS. NOW THERE IS NO ONE LEFT TO OPPOSE ME!
9

I MUST HAVE LOST THOSE ROBOT THINGS WHEN I WENT THROUGH THE CLOUDS. QUEST AND THE OTHERS WERE STANDING UP ON THEIR DISCS. IT LOOKS LIKE THESE INDENTATIONS WERE MEANT AS FOOTHOLDS.
I CAN DO IT. I CAN STAND IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE THE DISC HAS ITS OWN GRAVITY. AND BY PRESSING MY HEELS TOGETHER, I CAN MAKE IT ACCELERATE.
I CAN DO IT! I CAN FLY! NO HANDS... I CAN FLY!
SKWAARK!
W-WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A...A PTERODACTYL! AND IT SEEMS TO BE FIGHTING..
...A WORLD WAR I FIGHTER PLANE AND SOMETHING OUT OF A RENAISSANCE NIGHTMARE!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! THE THIN AIR IS MAKING ME DIZZY... THERE'S SOME KIND OF SHIP DOWN THERE. ANYTHING'S SAFER THAN THIS!

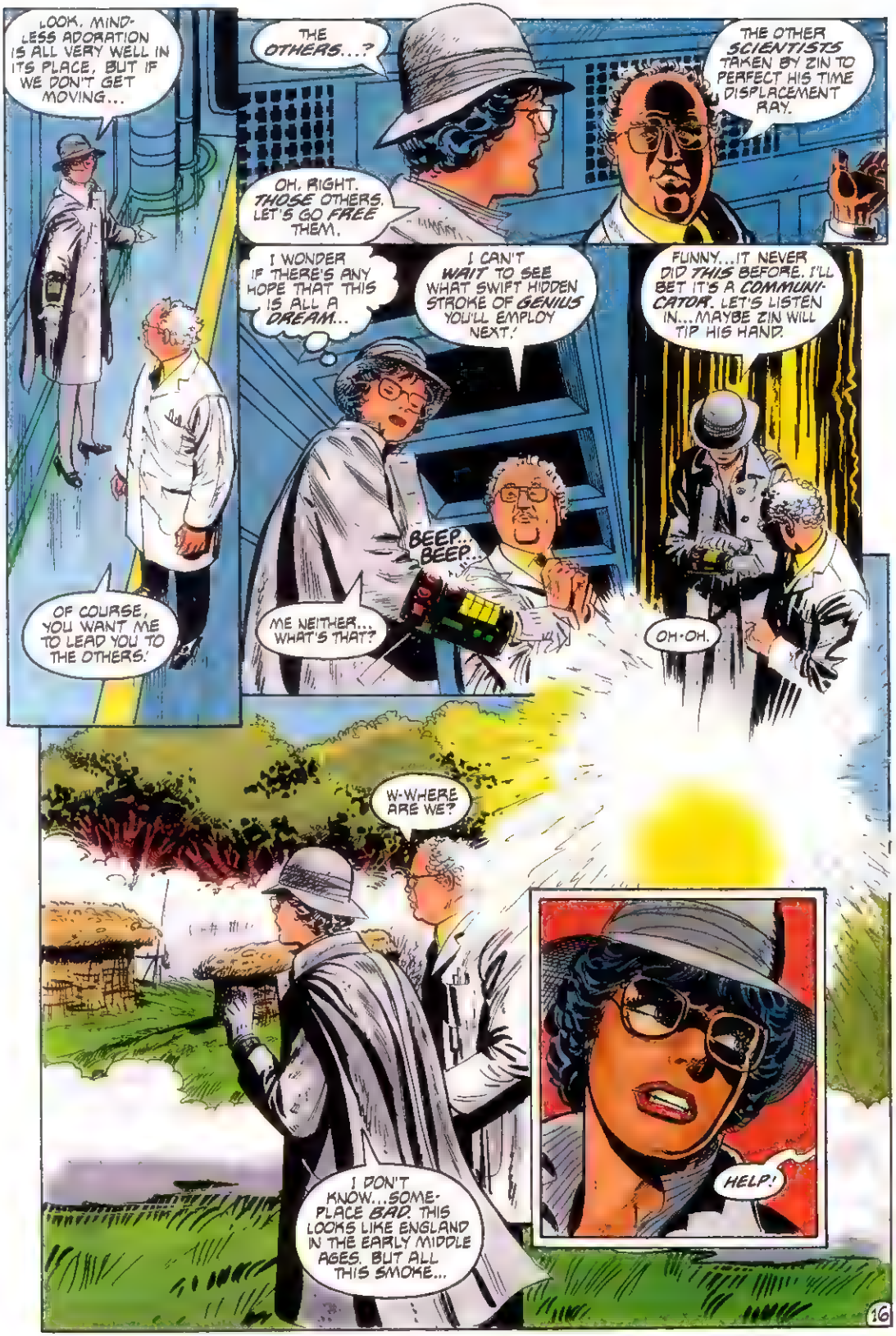
THEN AGAIN...
YOU SEE, SMEE, I BRING MY FORTRESS NEAR THE EARTH TO WITNESS QUEST'S ENSNAREMENT, AND WHOM SHOULD WE CAPTURE BUT LADY AGATHA? IT IS YOU, IS IT NOT, DEAR LADY? I HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR EXPLOITS FROM AFAR... I EVEN SENT A SMALL ARMY TO ELIMINATE YOU IN LONDON. OBVIOUSLY THEIR REPORTS WERE A TRIFLE OPTIMISTIC.
YOU'VE CHOSEN A FORTUNATE MOMENT TO SURRENDER. YOU SEE WHAT I POSSESS ...AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
YOU'VE BEEN BURGLING ZOOS?
DO NOT IMAGINE A FEIGNED IGNORANCE WILL SAVE YOU, MR. SMITH HERE IS A MOST DEADLY OPPONENT. JOIN ME OR BE DESTROYED!
KA-BONK
I CAN THINK OF AT LEAST ONE OTHER OPTION!
INSOLENT INSECT!
OOF!
MY MODULE! NO... NOT THAT!
IT'S MINE NOW!
GLEEP! GLEEP!
DON'T BOTHER WITH HER NOW! CATCH THE CREATURE! HURRY!
11

GOSH, DAD.. LOOK AT ALL THE PINE FORESTS AND RIVERS AND BIRDS! WHERE ARE WE?
I DON'T THINK WE'VE MOVED VERY FAR. WE'RE IN THE SAME PLACE...JUST ANOTHER TIME! THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT. BETTER LAND, RACE. WE NEED TO SAVE FUEL.
RIGHT, DOC.
ZIN HAS PERFECTED SOME SORT OF TIME PROJECTOR. HE CAN SEND PEOPLE BACK TO ANY TIME HE WANTS, OR SNATCH THEM INTO OUR TIME... WHAT WAS OUR TIME.
BUT EACH TIME HE DOES, HE SETS UP EDDIES AND CROSSCURRENTS IN THE TIME STREAM. LITTLE WHIRLPOOLS OF TIME THAT CAN LEAD TO ANYWHERE!
DR. QUEST! LOOK AT THIS!
A DINOSAUR SKELETON AND HARDLY MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS OLD. THIS DOESN'T BELONG IN PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICA...IT'S ALREADY STARTED, AND WE'RE ALL IN...
...DANGER... UUUHH!
12

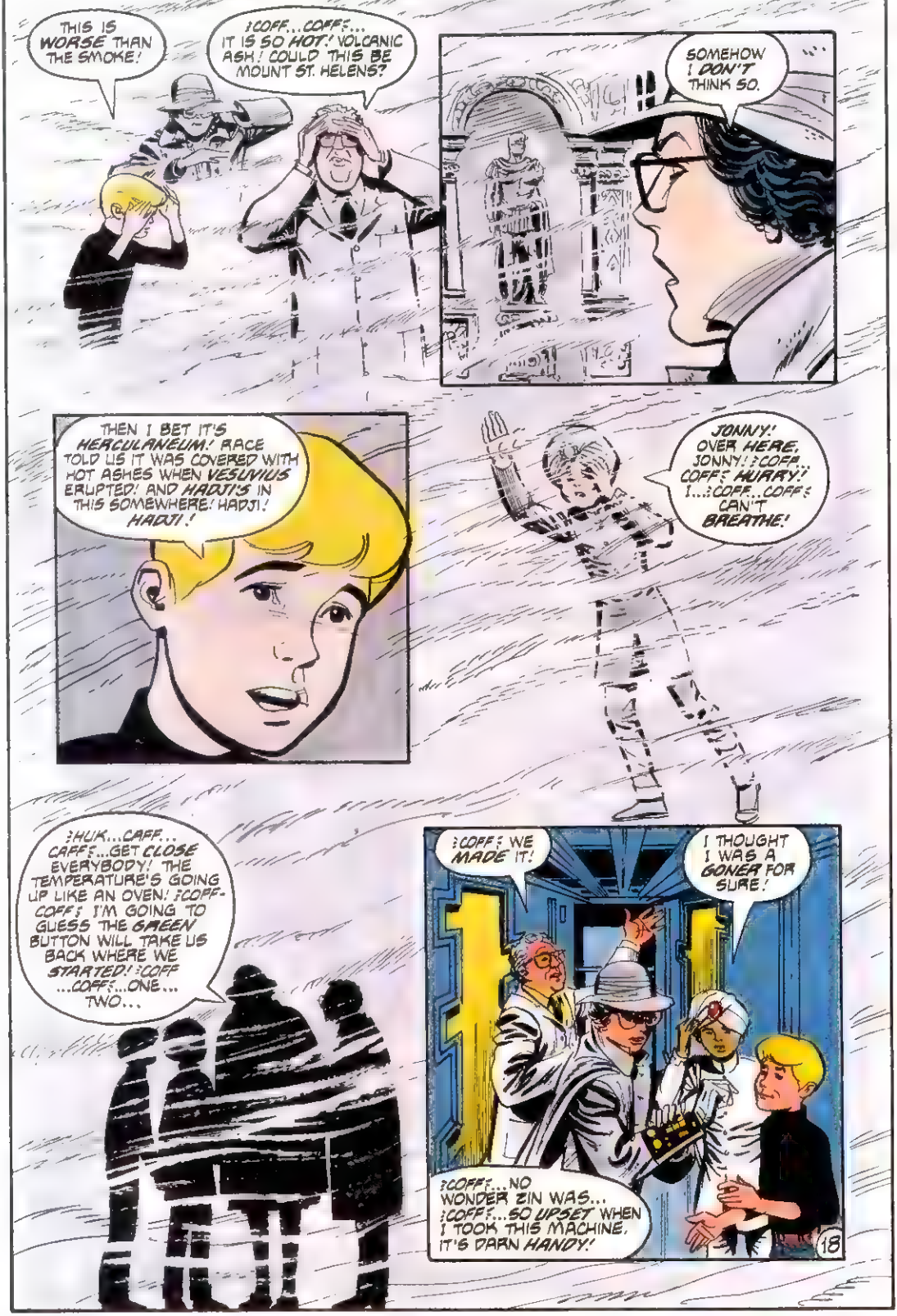
DAD!
WHO ARE THEY?
PROTO-INDIANS... ANCESTORS OF THE INDIANS WE KNOW. THEIR ANCESTORS PROBABLY WALKED OVER THE BERING STRAIT A COUPLE OF GENERATIONS AGO.
THESE BONES ARE PROBABLY SACRED TO THEM. WE MUST LOOK LIKE DEMONS IN THEIR EYES. RIGHT NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH US.
DON'T SHOOT UNLESS YOU HAVE TO, RACE. FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS. MAYBE THAT WILL SCARE THEM OFF.
HEY, JONNY! LOOK AT YOU!
YOU TOO! AND YOU'RE TURNING INVISIBLE.
YOU ALSO!
SON!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THEY JUST VANISHED! THIS IS MADNESS!
NOT MADNESS, DOCTOR, I ASSURE YOU. A FINELY TUNED METHOD.
ZIN!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH JONNY AND HADJI?
NOTHING. I HAVE JUST PLACED THEM ELSEWHERE...AT INTERESTING MOMENTS IN HISTORY. IF YOU DECIDE TO BE REASONABLE, I SHALL RETRIEVE THEM. IF NOT...!
BLAST YOU, ZIN! WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
I AM IN DEADLY EARNEST, MR. BANNON. I HAVE RECENTLY SALVAGED AN AEGYPTOPITHECUS FROM THE CURRENTS OF TIME. DOCTOR DO YOU FIND THE NAME FAMILIAR?
BUT FLOURISHED IN SUCH A SMALL WAY, DOCTOR. WHY, IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO THIS LITTLE FELLOW, THE HUMAN GENE POOL WOULD BE ALTERED...INCREDIBLY.
YES...A COMMON ANCESTOR OF BOTH HUMANS AND THE GREAT APES. IT FLOURISHED ABOUT THIRTY-THREE MILLION YEARS AGO.
WHICH IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO TELL THE WORLD, DOCTOR. UNLESS ALL NATIONS CEDE TO MY ULTIMATE CONTROL, THE CREATURE DIES. WHO KNOWS...PERHAPS WITHOUT THIS ONE SET OF CHROMOSOMES, THE RACE ITSELF MUST PERISH.
EXISTENCE WITHOUT POWER HOLDS NO LURE FOR ME, DOCTOR.
AND I DON'T REALLY THINK YOU HAVE A CHOICE. DO YOU?
DAMN YOU, ZIN.
YOU'RE MAD, ZIN. YOU RISK DESTROYING YOURSELF.

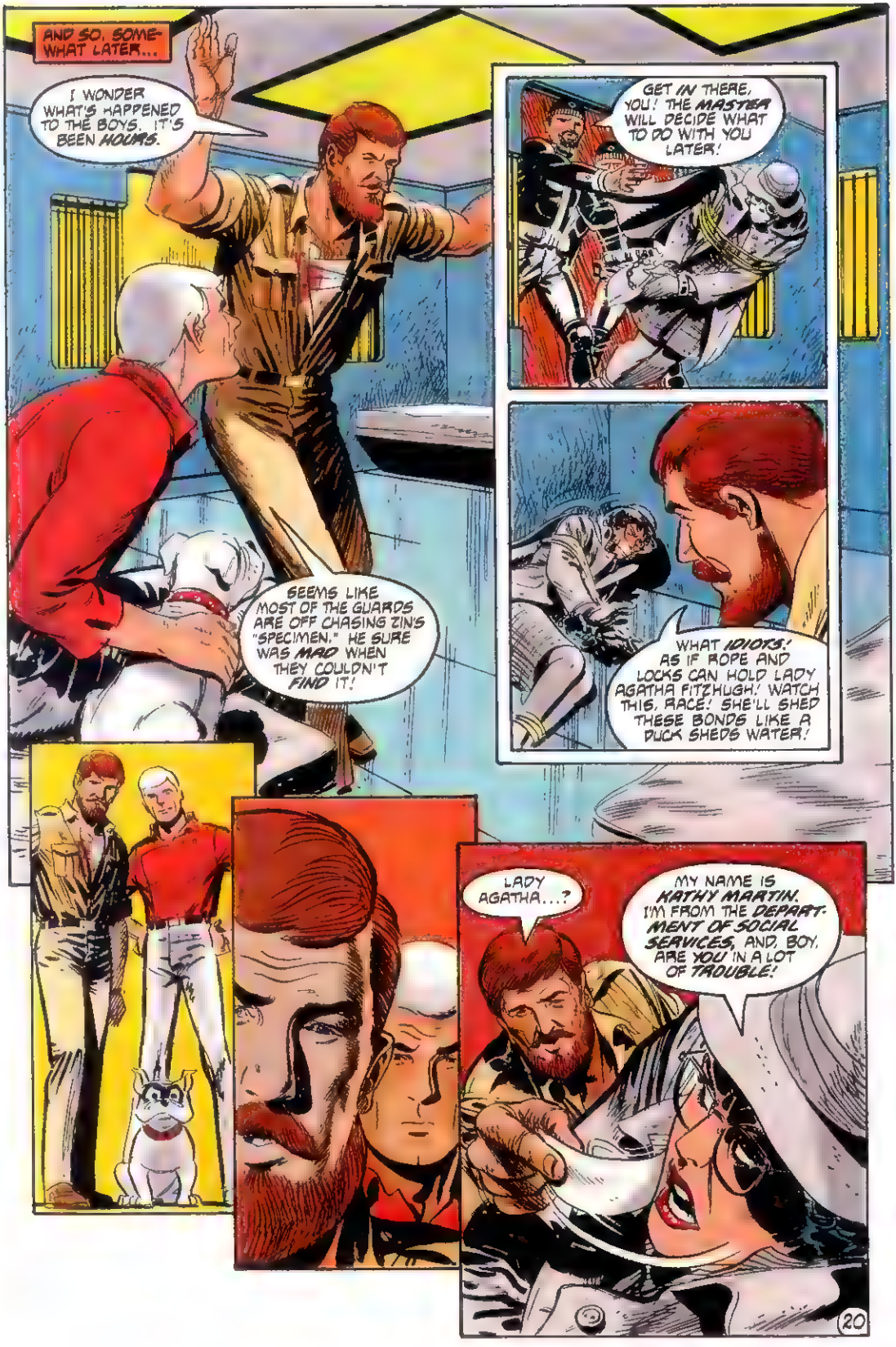
AND DEEP WITHIN THE MASSIVE SKY FORTRESS...
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME...OOPS, THIS THING IS RUNNING OUT OF GAS.
I WONDER IF IT RECHARGES BY ITSELF OR IF I SHOULD PLUG IT IN SOMEWHERE...? LB-1? THAT'S EASY TO REMEMBER. I'LL STOW IT HERE UNTIL... SOMEBODY'S COMING!
LB 1
AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT I'M NOT HEAVILY BOUND ENOUGH? WHY, I MIGHT SNAP THESE FETTERS LIKE TISSUE AND REND YOU LIKE A WILD BEAST.
LB 1
SILENCE, FOOL. WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES NOW AND...
BONK!
...THE MASTER HAS NEED... OOF!
I HOPE YOU CAN GIVE ME A HINT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON, CHARLIE!
I AM HANS... HANS VAN DER TORK. I HARDLY KNOW, MYSELF. I WAS KIDNAPPED AND... THE LADY IN GRAY! OF COURSE...OF COURSE!
WHO WOULD APPEAR WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST...WHO ELSE WOULD PENETRATE THIS DARK CITADEL TO RESCUE ME EXCEPT "THE WOMAN WITHOUT FEAR," "THE MODERN DIANA," "THE..."
15


LOOK. MINDLESS ADORATION IS ALL VERY WELL IN ITS PLACE, BUT IF WE DON'T GET MOVING...
OF COURSE, YOU WANT ME TO LEAD YOU TO THE OTHERS.'
THE OTHERS...?
OH, RIGHT. THOSE OTHERS. LET'S GO FREE THEM.
THE OTHER SCIENTISTS TAKEN BY ZIN TO PERFECT HIS TIME DISPLACEMENT RAY.
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY HOPE THAT THIS IS ALL A DREAM...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT SWIFT HIDDEN STROKE OF GENIUS YOU'LL EMPLOY NEXT.'
BEEP... BEEP...
ME NEITHER... WHAT'S THAT?
FUNNY...IT NEVER DID THIS BEFORE. I'LL BET IT'S A COMMUNICATOR. LET'S LISTEN IN...MAYBE ZIN WILL TIP HIS HAND.
OH-OH.
W-WHERE ARE WE?
I DON'T KNOW...SOMEPLACE BAD. THIS LOOKS LIKE ENGLAND IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES. BUT ALL THIS SMOKE...
HELP!

RACE! DAD! SOMEBODY! HELP!
IT'S THAT QUEST BOY! HEY! CUT THAT OUT!
NOW I'VE DONE IT. WHAT DID THEY SAY IN DIANE'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS? WHEN YOUR OPPONENT IS BIGGER THAN YOU...WAY BIGGER THAN YOU... RELAX AND USE HIS MOMENTUM...
...AGAINST HIM. IF THIS IS WRONG, I'LL NEVER KNOW IT!
YOU DID IT. HE'LL SLEEP FOR A BIT. BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
I THINK THIS IS THE DANISH INVASION OF ENGLAND IN 936 A.D. RACE TOLD US ABOUT IT. BUT WHERE IS HADJI? HADJI!
I THINK I KNOW.
I THINK HE'S BEHIND THIS BUTTON. EVERYBODY STAND CLOSE. ONE...TWO... THREE...
BUNT


THIS IS WORSE THAN THE SMOKE!
¡COFF...COFF!... IT IS SO HOT! VOLCANIC ASH! COULD THIS BE MOUNT ST. HELENS?
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SO.
THEN I BET IT'S HERCULANEUM! PACE TOLD US IT WAS COVERED WITH HOT ASHES WHEN VESUVIUS ERUPTED! AND HADJI'S IN THIS SOMEWHERE! HADJI! HADJI!
JONNY! OVER HERE, JONNY! ¡COFF-COFF! HURRY! I...¡COFF...COFF! CAN'T BREATHE!
¡HUK...CAFF... CAFF!...GET CLOSE EVERYBODY! THE TEMPERATURE'S GOING UP LIKE AN OVEN! ¡COFF-COFF! I'M GOING TO GUESS THE GREEN BUTTON WILL TAKE US BACK WHERE WE STARTED! ¡COFF ...COFF!...ONE... TWO...
¡COFF! WE MADE IT!
I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE!
¡COFF!...NO WONDER ZIN WAS... ¡COFF!...SO UPSET WHEN I TOOK THIS MACHINE. IT'S DARN HANDY!
18

WE MUST TRY AND REACH THE PRISON LEVEL. PERHAPS MY COLLEAGUES HAVE FIGURED OUT HOW TO STOP ZIN'S MAD PLAN.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?
AND AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION...
YOU SEE, THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AGREE.
BUT... IT MAKES NO SENSE. THE GENES OF ONE INDIVIDUAL WOULD NOT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.
THAT'S RIGHT. ACCORDING TO WHAT MY DAD TAUGHT US, TWO INDIVIDUALS CAN CONTAIN THE GENETIC BLUEPRINT FOR AN ENTIRE SPECIES.
OTHERWISE, SPECIES WOULD ALWAYS BE CHANGING. IF EVERYBODY HAD A LITTLE PIECE OF THE GENETIC POOL RATHER THAN ALL OF IT, THEN ANYBODY WHO WENT OFF AND LIVED BY THEMSELVES, LIKE THE AMISH DO, WOULD TURN INTO A DIFFERENT SPECIES IN A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS. AND THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN!
YOU TWO SEEM AWFULLY WELL-EDUCATED.
WELL, RACE TEACHES US MOST STUFF, EXCEPT FOR SCIENCE. MY DAD SHOWS US THAT.
WE PICK UP A LOT ON OUR OWN, ALSO.
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO STOP ZIN ANYWAY, BECAUSE...
LOOK, JONNY! GUARDS!
THE LADY IN GRAY! MAYBE SHE HAS THE APE-CREATURE!
RUN! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
I WONDER HOW...?
19


AND SO, SOMEWHAT LATER...
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE BOYS. IT'S BEEN HOURS.
SEEMS LIKE MOST OF THE GUARDS ARE OFF CHASING ZIN'S "SPECIMEN." HE SURE WAS MAD WHEN THEY COULDN'T FIND IT!
GET IN THERE, YOU! THE MASTER WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU LATER!
WHAT IDIOTS! AS IF ROPE AND LOCKS CAN HOLD LADY AGATHA FITZHUGH! WATCH THIS, RACE! SHE'LL SHED THESE BONDS LIKE A DUCK SHEDS WATER!
LADY AGATHA...?
MY NAME IS KATHY MARTIN. I'M FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, AND, BOY, ARE YOU IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!
20

A SOCIAL WORKER! THE HUMAN RACE COULD BE DOOMED, AND I'M TRAPPED IN THIS CELL WITH A PLAY-ACTING SOCIAL WORKER!
THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!
I CAN'T OPEN THESE CUFFS WITHOUT MORE EQUIPMENT.
IF YOU HAD BOTHERED TO FILL OUT SOME SIMPLE FORMS, I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS!
I FILLED OUT YOUR FORMS! YOU BUREAUCRATIC DRONES MUST HAVE LOST THEM.!
AND I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO TELL ME HOW TO EDUCATE MY...
A SOCIAL WORKER! THE HUMAN RACE COULD BE DOOMED, AND I'M TRAPPED IN THIS CELL WITH A PLAY-ACTING SOCIAL WORKER!
THIS ISN'T MY FAULT! IF YOU HAD BOTHERED TO FILL OUT SOME SIMPLE FORMS, I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?
DÉJÀ VU! TIME ECHOES! I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF THIS! THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH TIME DISPLACEMENT THAT THIS WHOLE AREA OF TIME IS WEAK. WE COULD RIP THROUGH AT ANY TIME!
RIP THROUGH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

PERHAPS WE WILL NOT HAVE TO FIND OUT. SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO FIND YOU...THESE VENTS ARE COMPLEX.
TORK.
JONNY! HADJI!
DAD!
I THINK WE CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE, LADY AGATHA! I STILL HAVE THE KEYS FROM THAT FOOL OF A GUARD!
BENTON QUEST, IS IT NOT? WE ARE ALL LUCKY YOU BROUGHT LADY AGATHA INTO THIS CASE. SHE HAS SAVED OUR LIVES MANY TIMES.
SHE HAS, HAS SHE?
WE'LL FACE THE OTHER PRISONERS, THEN TRY TO MAKE IT TO THE PLANE. ZIN HAS IT STRAPPED DOWN ON DECK!
LADY AGATHA?
GO ON. I'LL CATCH UP!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A GUARD.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, BUT I'M GETTING BETTER AT IT!
THE LADY IN GRAY!
QUICK! TELL ME WHERE ZIN'S TIME DISPLACER IS, OR...UM...I'LL KILL YOU WITH MY ELBOW!
NO. NO! NOT THE ELBOW OF DOOM! IT'S ON THE FIRST LEVEL...LB-1!
22

AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
LB-1...? THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR. I...WELL, WELL, WELL! EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FOR YOU. AND LOOK WHAT YOU FOUND!
COME ON, GRANDPA! GIVE ME A HAND! THIS IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN I FIGURED ON. ALL I WANT TO DO IS MAKE SURE THIS THING GETS SENT TO THE BEGINNING OF TIME, WHERE IT CAN'T DO ANY MORE DAMAGE. I WONDER IF THERE'S AN "ON" BUTTON?
YOU WON'T NEED ONE!
ZIN.
THE CONTROLS ARE FUSED OPEN, AND WILL ACCOMPLISH YOUR AIM. WE ARE DOOMED! BUT YOU, LADY AGATHA, WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO TO BLAZES!
WHA... I CAN'T SEE...
SPLURRSH
KLONGK
JONNY! YOU CAME BACK!
SURE I DID. YOU SAVED ME FROM THOSE NORSEMEN. I COULDN'T JUST RUN AWAY!
YOU KNOW, IF WE EVER GET OUT OF THIS, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOUR DAD WHAT AN EXCELLENT JOB HE DID RAISING YOU.
UM...MA'AM? I THINK WE'D BETTER GO.
OVERLOAD
23

SUDDENLY THE WHOLE OF THE SKY FORTRESS IS RACKED BY TREMORS AND FLOODED WITH UNEARTHLY LIGHT...THE GREAT SHIP FLUTTERS LIKE A CANDLE IN THE WIND AND VANISHES INTO THE DEEPS OF TIME...
...LEAVING ONLY...
BOY, DOC! WE GOT OFF THAT ROLLER COASTER JUST IN TIME!
IN "TIME" INDEED, RACE! THERE GOES VAN DER TORK AND THE OTHER SCIENTISTS IT'S FORTUNATE ZIN HAD SO MANY...
DR. QUEST! JONNY'S NOT ON BOARD!
WHAT?! I WAS SURE HE WAS RIGHT WITH US! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM...
DOC! LOOK...!
UM...HI, GUYS, GIVE A GIRL A LIFT...?
24

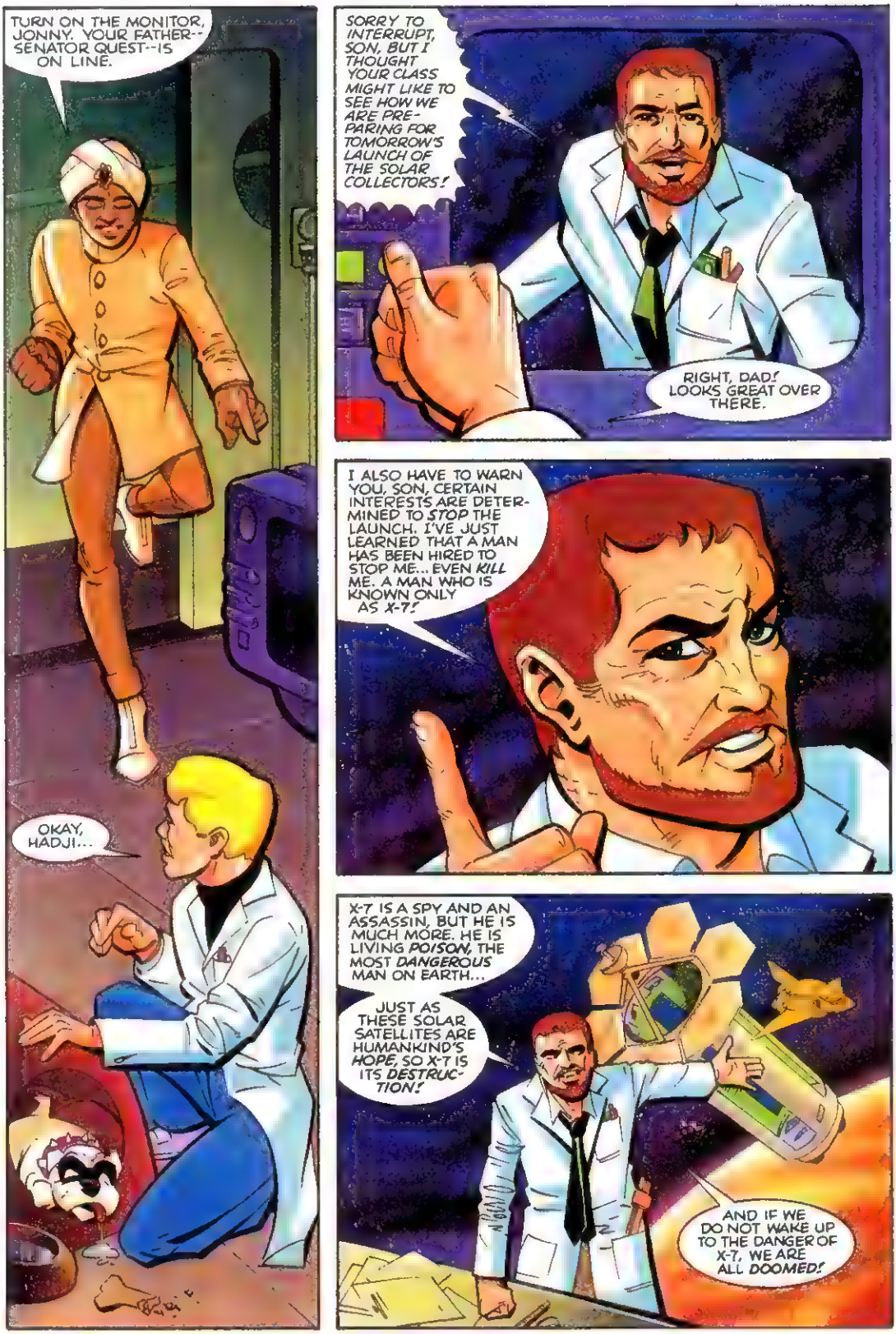
HOW'D YOUR WEEKEND GO, KATHY? DID YOU EVER SHAKE THAT COLD?
COLD...? OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I HADN'T NOTICED.
ACTUALLY, FRIDAY WAS KIND OF HECTIC. WHAT WITH THE KILLER ROBOTS AND THE KIDNAPPING AND ALL. BUT ON SATURDAY, I WENT ON A PICNIC TO A DESERT ISLAND, AND A REAL SECRET AGENT TAUGHT ME HOW TO SCUBA DIVE. AND ON SUNDAY, THE PRESIDENT CALLED. AND, DIANE, I MET THE SWEETEST GUY. HE'S INTELLIGENT AND FUNNY AND HE'S GOT THE CUTEST BEARD!
UH-HUH
WELL, I BELIEVE THE PART ABOUT THE BEARD ANYWAY. YOU LOOK WONDERFUL. YOU'LL NEED A... THAT PEP TOO. "HIMSELF" WANTS TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS YOU GET IN
BE CAREFUL. HE'S IN A ROTTEN MOOD. LOOK WHAT WE GOT TODAY.
"MEMO TO ALL OFFICE PERSONNEL: AS OF THIS DATE, MANDATORY OVERTIME IS IN EFFECT. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. FURTHERMORE, ALL MEDICAL LEAVES WILL HAVE TO BE SUPPORTED BY TWO CORROBORATING PHYSICIANS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.--CLEMENT ASHBURY SUPERVISOR."

HI, CUDDLES. YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
WHAT?! WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU?!
BASHH
SIT DOWN, CUDDLES, AND BE QUIET. THIS IS GOING TO BE IMPRESSIVE, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF IT!
YOU'RE A PETTY TYRANT, YOU KNOW THAT AND I KNOW IT. BUT IF YOU STAY OUT OF MY WAY, YOU WON'T GET HURT!
I WON'T... I ? WHY I OUGHT...
YOU WON'T DO A THING. I COULD MAKE A PHONE CALL RIGHT NOW THAT WOULD MAKE YOUR EYEBROWS SMOKE. BUT I WON'T DO THAT, BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW YOU DON'T WANT A DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF YOUR FILES OR YOUR HIRING PRACTICES... AND IF YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, I WON'T START ONE!
B...B... BUT...

FURTHERMORE, THIS AFTERNOON WE ARE GOING TO SIT DOWN AND RE-WRITE MY PERSONAL EVALUATION SHEET, AND TRY TO GET IT A LITTLE MORE LIKE NON-FICTION. IN FACT, FROM HERE ON OUT, I'M GOING TO REVIEW ALL THE PERSONAL EVALUATION SHEETS BEFORE THEY GO OUT. BECAUSE, YOU KNOW SOMETHING, ASH-BURY? I DON'T TRUST YOU ANY MORE!
WELL...UM... THAT SOUNDS... FAIR. I MEAN... I DON'T MIND A... LITTLE... UM... FRIENDLY...
NOW, WHAT'S THIS GARBAGE ABOUT MANDATORY OVERTIME?
...UM...
Help
SOCIAL SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVI
END

WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS - STORY • L. LOIS BUHALIS - LETTERS • DIANA SCHUTZ - EDITS • KEN STEACY - EVERYTHING ELSE, EH?!

IF YOU *DO* PRODUCE ENERGY DIRECTLY FROM THE SUN, WON'T THAT DESTROY MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND THROW MILLIONS OUT OF WORK?
PERHAPS...
...BUT MANY WILL BE EMPLOYED BUILDING THE NETWORK OF SOLAR COLLECTORS. AND, IN THE LONG TERM, THE PRESENCE OF BOUNTIFUL FREE ENERGY SHOULD CREATE THOUSANDS OF *NEW* INDUSTRIES.
IN A SENSE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT WILL BE *YOUR* JOB--TO FIND WAYS OF USING THIS LIMITLESS POWER.
THIS IS *2016*--NOT 1820 OR EVEN 1980. IT'S TIME, FINALLY, TO TIE OUR DESTINIES TO THE SUN!
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE. OUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE AGING AND UNSAFE, GEOTHERMAL GENERATORS ARE MASSIVELY INEFFICIENT, AND OUR FOSSIL FUELS ARE NEARLY GONE.
WE MUST *WAKE UP* TO SOLAR POWER!
POOR OLD BANDIT...YOU COULD USE A LITTLE SOLAR POWER--eh, BOY?


TURN ON THE MONITOR, JONNY. YOUR FATHER--SENATOR QUEST--IS ON LINE.
OKAY, HADJI...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SON, BUT I THOUGHT YOUR CLASS MIGHT LIKE TO SEE HOW WE ARE PREPARING FOR TOMORROW'S LAUNCH OF THE SOLAR COLLECTORS!
RIGHT, DAD! LOOKS GREAT OVER THERE.
I ALSO HAVE TO WARN YOU, SON, CERTAIN INTERESTS ARE DETERMINED TO *STOP* THE LAUNCH. I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT A MAN HAS BEEN HIRED TO STOP ME... EVEN *KILL* ME. A MAN WHO IS KNOWN ONLY AS *X-7!*
X-7 IS A SPY AND AN ASSASSIN, BUT HE IS MUCH MORE. HE IS LIVING *POISON*, THE MOST *DANGEROUS* MAN ON EARTH...
JUST AS THESE SOLAR SATELLITES ARE HUMANKIND'S *HOPE*, SO X-7 IS ITS *DESTRUCTION!*
AND IF WE DO NOT WAKE UP TO THE DANGER OF X-7, WE ARE ALL *DOOMED!*

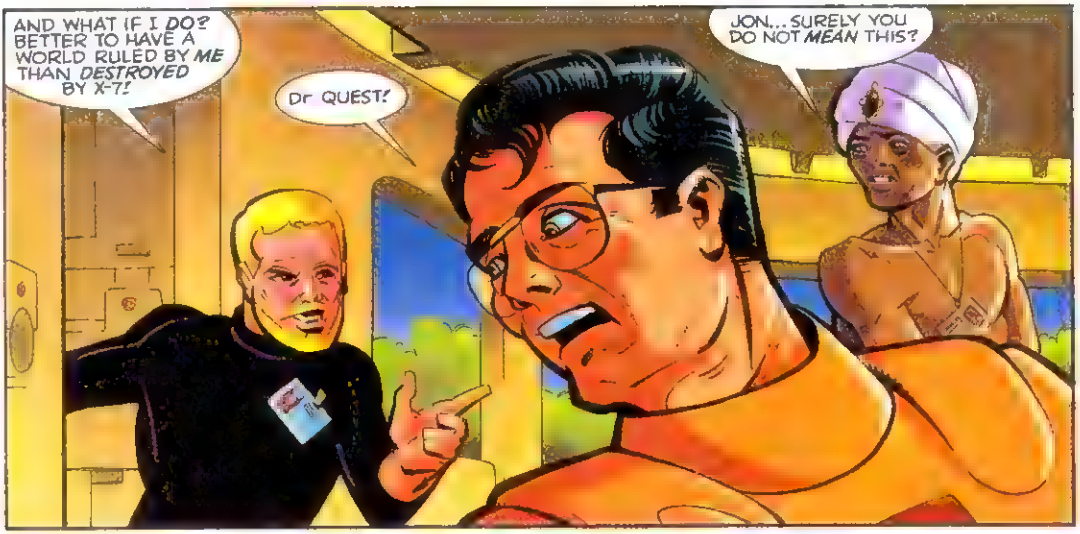
WHAT'S HAPPENED, SON? I CAN'T HEAR YOU. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DAD!
HADJI-- LET'S GET OVER THERE!
COME ON, BANDIT!
BANDIT?
HA! HA! HA! HA!
HADJI-- BANDIT'S ...DEAD!

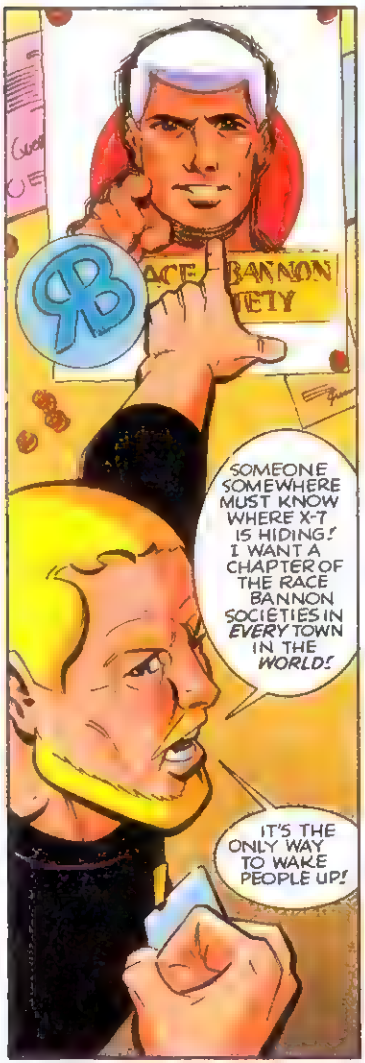
BANDIT WAS A VERY OLD DOG, JONNY. HE JUST STOPPED BREATHING
I KNOW... WE'VE GOT TO GET TO DAD.
HE IS STILL ALIVE. I CAN FEEL THE VIBRATIONS OF HIS AURA.
GOOD. BUT THAT X-7 CHARACTER LOOKED SO WEIRD ...SO DEADLY!
TRUE, BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT RACE BANNON IS HEAD OF SECURITY.
HE WILL LET NOTHING HAPPEN TO YOUR FATHER.
THAT'S RIGHT-- THE FOUR OF US HAVE DEFEATED SOME POWERFUL FOES.
X-7 WILL JUST BE ANOTHER.
THE SECURITY PERSONNEL-- THEY'VE ALL BEEN STRANGLED!
Oh MY GOD...
RACE! OH NO!

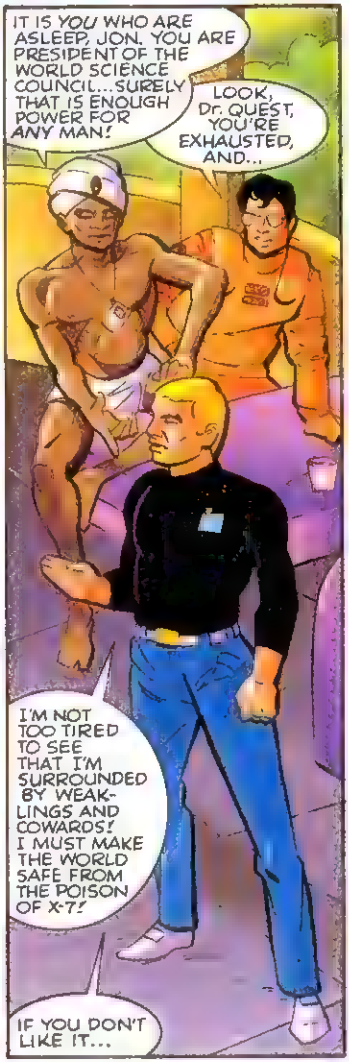
THE DOOR'S LOCKED! IT'S MAGNETICALLY SEALED FROM THE INSIDE!
LET ME TRY, JONNY!
LABORATORY
SIM SIM SALABIM!
STAND BACK, YOU FOOLS! I AM GREATER THAN ANY SCIENTIST! WITH THIS ONE PLASMA GRENADE, I WILL DESTROY ALL OF QUEST'S WORK! NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
YOU MONSTER! SON! STAY BACK!
DAD!
MMMM!
ONLY SECONDS LEFT! I'VE GOT TO TRY AND DISARM THE GRENADE!
NO, DAD...
MMMMMMMM
DAD!
B-WHAM!

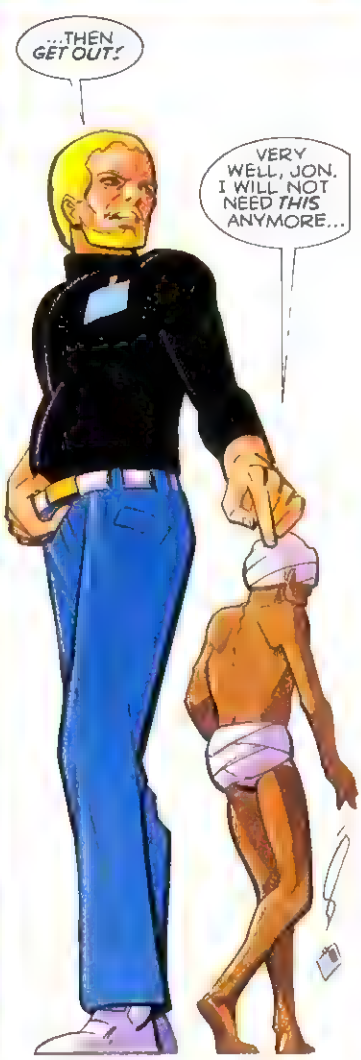
DAD!
DAD--?
FEBRUARY 19, 2027. MORE THAN TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY FATHER DIED, YET THE NIGHTMARES CONTINUE--ALMOST LIKE HE IS CALLING ME FROM THE GRAVE--TRYING TO WARN ME...
I MUST FIND X-7!
THAT MADMAN'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND. I'M CONVINCED HE IS NEARBY ...HOVERING OVER ME, WAITING TO STRIKE!
X-7 MUST BE STOPPED! IT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.
I SUSPECT HADJI IS AFRAID I'M...

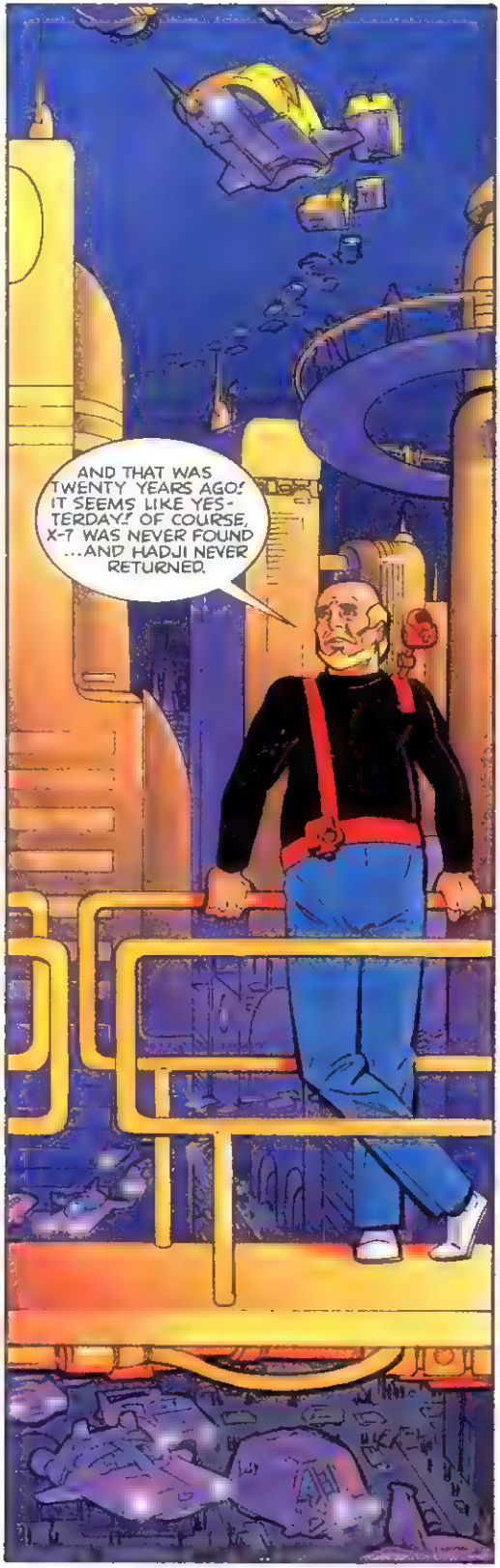
. . .LOSING MY MIND
Mr. WAKEFIELD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO CONVINCE JON TO *REST*. PEOPLE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SOLAR ECONOMY HE HAS CREATED THAT THEY SHOWER HIM WITH HONORS..AND YET HE IS DRIVEN BY *VENGEANCE*.
I *FEAR* FOR HIM
YES, I SEE YOUR POINT.
AS HEAD OF SECURITY, I HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO. Dr. QUEST SUPERVISES *EVERYTHING*.
AND THE SPECIAL SECURITY FORCES JON HAS SET UP TO SEARCH FOR X-7 ARE UNDERMINING THE LOCAL POLICE.
THESE *RACE BANNON SOCIETIES* MAKE IT APPEAR THAT QUEST INDUSTRIES WANTS AN EAR TO EVERY KEYHOLE...
...AS IF JON WISHES TO RULE THE WORLD!
Q
QUEST
D.W.


AND WHAT IF I DO? BETTER TO HAVE A WORLD RULED BY ME THAN DESTROYED BY X-7!
Dr. QUEST!
JON... SURELY YOU DO NOT MEAN THIS?

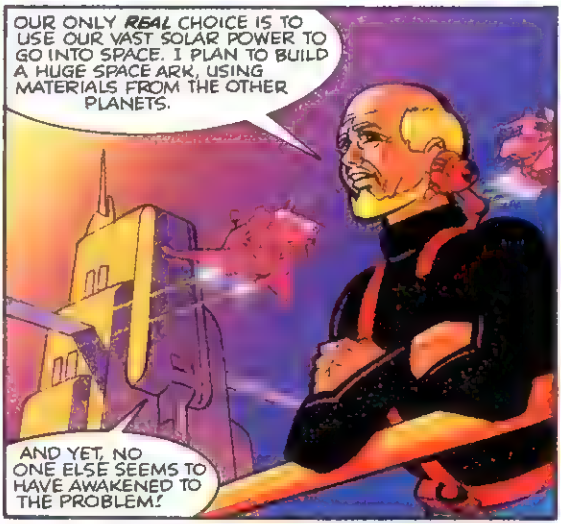

SOMEONE SOMEWHERE MUST KNOW WHERE X-7 IS HIDING! I WANT A CHAPTER OF THE RACE BANNON SOCIETIES IN EVERY TOWN IN THE WORLD!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO WAKE PEOPLE UP!

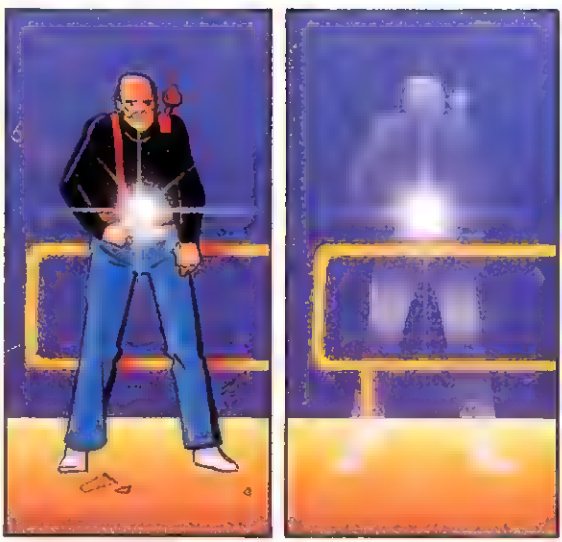

IT IS YOU WHO ARE ASLEEP, JON. YOU ARE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD SCIENCE COUNCIL... SURELY THAT IS ENOUGH POWER FOR ANY MAN!
LOOK, Dr. QUEST, YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, AND...
I'M NOT TOO TIRED TO SEE THAT I'M SURROUNDED BY WEAK-LINGS AND COWARDS! I MUST MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FROM THE POISON OF X-7!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...

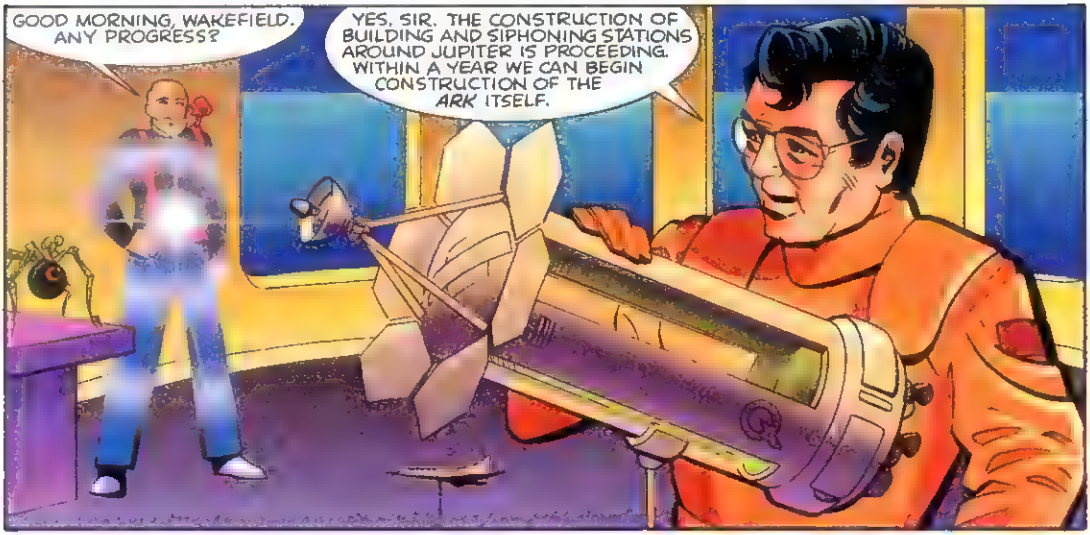

...THEN GET OUT!
VERY WELL, JON. I WILL NOT NEED THIS ANYMORE...

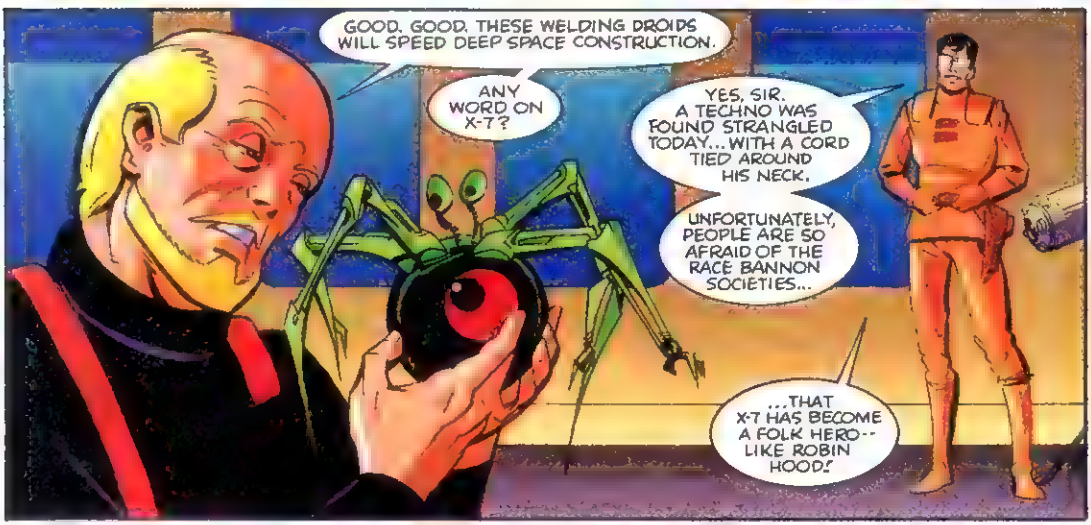

AND THAT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO! IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY! OF COURSE, X-7 WAS NEVER FOUND ...AND HADJI NEVER RETURNED.

THINGS HAVEN'T GONE AS WELL AS I'D HOPED. WITH UNLIMITED SOLAR ENERGY AT OUR DISPOSAL, MANKIND HAS DEPLETED EARTH'S OTHER RESOURCES AT A TERRIFYING RATE.


OUR ONLY *REAL* CHOICE IS TO USE OUR VAST SOLAR POWER TO GO INTO SPACE. I PLAN TO BUILD A HUGE SPACE ARK, USING MATERIALS FROM THE OTHER PLANETS.
AND YET, NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE AWAKENED TO THE PROBLEM!




GOOD MORNING, WAKEFIELD. ANY PROGRESS?
YES, SIR. THE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING AND SIPHONING STATIONS AROUND JUPITER IS PROCEEDING. WITHIN A YEAR WE CAN BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARK ITSELF.


GOOD. GOOD. THESE WELDING DROIDS WILL SPEED DEEP SPACE CONSTRUCTION.
ANY WORD ON X-7?
YES, SIR. A TECHNO WAS FOUND STRANGLED TODAY... WITH A CORD TIED AROUND HIS NECK.
UNFORTUNATELY, PEOPLE ARE SO AFRAID OF THE RACE BANNON SOCIETIES...
...THAT X-7 HAS BECOME A FOLK HERO-- LIKE ROBIN HOOD!

THE FOOLS! HE EXISTS ONLY TO DESTROY!
HE DELAYS ME WITH SABOTAGE AND MURDER, BUT ONLY FROM THE SHADOWS... AS IF HE WERE BAITING ME!
AS INDEED HE IS!
!?!

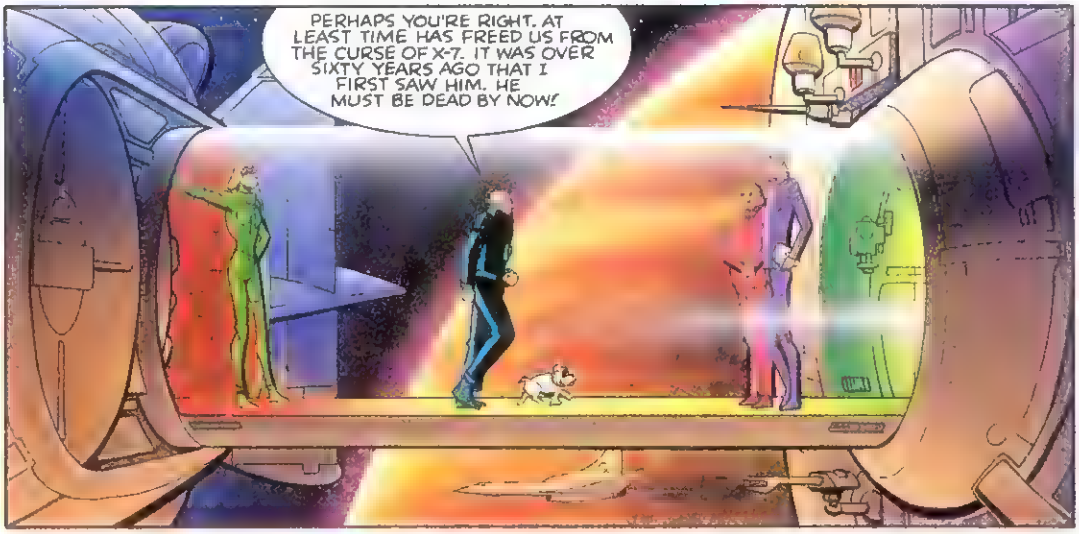
HADJI! HADJI, OLD FRIEND, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WELCOME BACK, HADJI.
I HAVE USED MY MYSTICAL POWERS TO PENETRATE DEEPLY INTO X-7'S SECRET ORGANIZATION. IT HAS TAKEN YEARS. HAVEN'T YOU WONDERED AT THE BASE WITH WHICH X-7 SLIPS BY YOUR SECURITY? HOW HE EVADES YOUR EVERY TRAP?
THE EXPLANATION IS VERY SIMPLE.
HE IS X-7!
CURSES!
YES, IT IS TRUE, QUEST!
HA! HA! HA!
I'VE BEEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO SMOTHER YOU THESE TWENTY YEARS!
THIS TIME YOU WON'T ESCAPE, YOU SOULLESS MONSTER!
CAREFUL, JON. HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

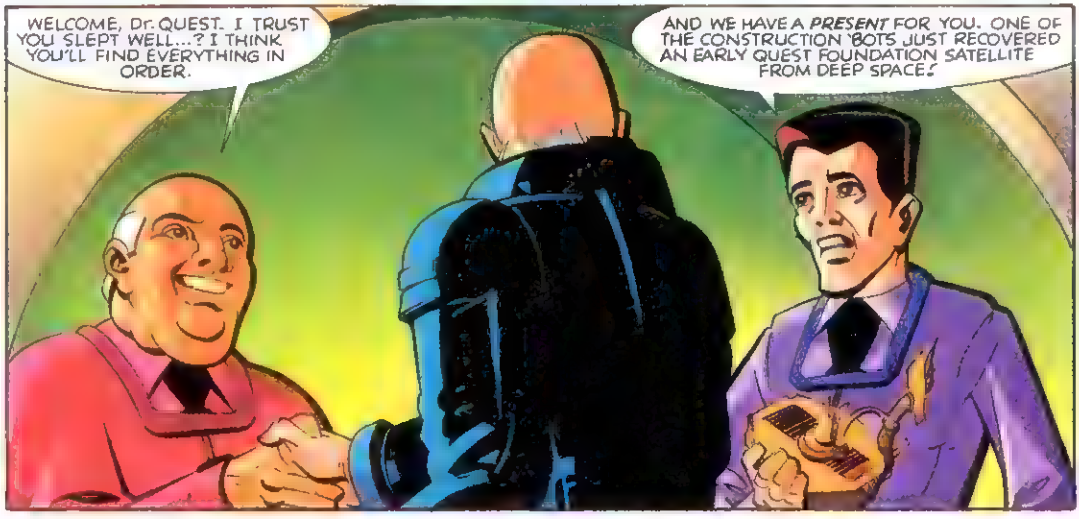
TRUE ENOUGH, VERMIN! THIS RAY WILL DRAW THE OXYGEN FROM YOUR BLOOD!
HADJI!
WHAT?! YOU STILL LIVE? IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
I NOW EXIST MOSTLY ON *ANOTHER* PLANE OF BEING. MATERIAL WEAPONS NO LONGER THREATEN ME.
BUT THEY CAN STILL DESTROY *YOU*, QUEST! *DIE!* DIE LIKE A DOG!
LOOK OUT, JON!
BAH! I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU ANOTHER TIME, QUEST!
HADJI!
YOU'RE HURT... BUT THE RAY DIDN'T AFFECT YOU BEFORE!
I...I HAD TO ABSORB THE FULL... POWER OF THE RAY... TO KEEP YOU FROM BEING KILLED... ?Gasp? YOU'RE MY ... *FRIEND*, JON.
HADJI! *HADJI!*

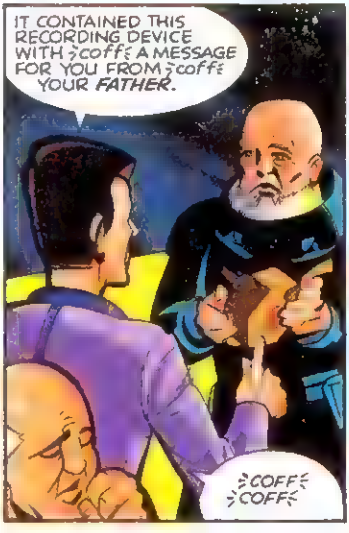
HADJI! HADJI...
WHERE...WHERE AM I?
WHY, JUST WHERE YOU *SHOULD* BE, Dr. QUEST --IN ORBIT AROUND JUPITER.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? YOU'RE THE FIRST PASSENGER SLATED FOR THE DEEP SPACE CRUISER. PERHAPS THE COOLING PROCESS HAS DISORIENTED YOU.
DISORIENTED...? YES, YOU ARE *FAMILIAR*. I THINK I KNEW YOU A LONG TIME AGO.
DOCTOR--LOOK WHO ELSE JUST THAWED OUT!
BANDIT! BANDIT VI! HERE, BOY!
YAKKITY YAK!

GOOD BOY! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! EVERYONE ELSE IS GONE. YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT!
DAD...HADJI...RACE...ALL *DEAD*! AND SOMEHOW I FEEL *GUILTY*... AS IF IT WERE ALL MY FAULT.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, DOCTOR? THEY WERE KILLED BY *X-7*. YOU'VE SPENT YOUR LIFE *FIGHTING* HIM AND HIS SMOTHERING EVIL!
JUST *LOOK* AT WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED! THE *DREAM* OF THE AGES!

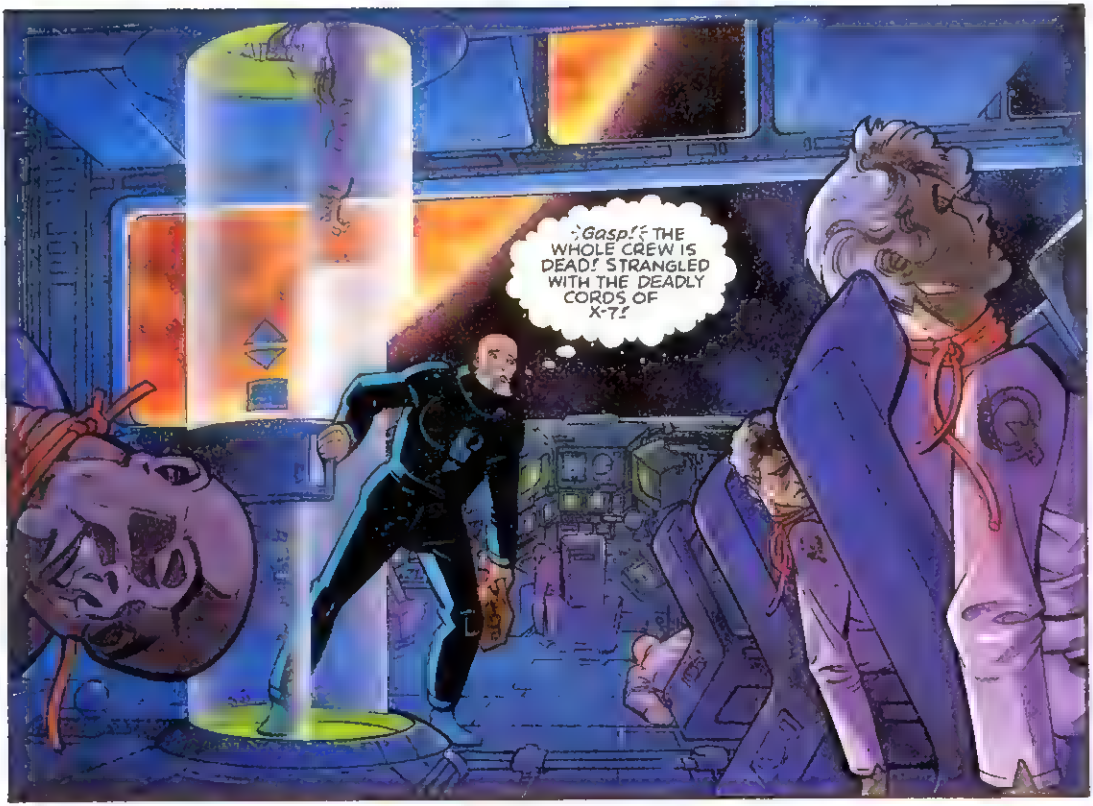
THE BENTON QUEST
YOU'VE MADE INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL POSSIBLE!
HADJI
YOU'VE USED SOLAR ENERGY TO CONSTRUCT THIS GIANT VESSEL--A SHIP *TWICE* THE SIZE OF *EARTH!* WITHIN THE *BENTON QUEST I*, HUMANKIND WILL ESCAPE EARTH'S STRANGLE-HOLD FOREVER AND BREATHE FREE AMID THE STARS!

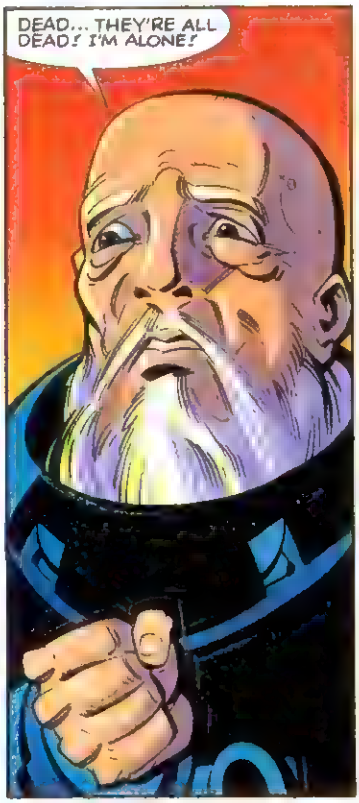

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. AT LEAST TIME HAS FREED US FROM THE CURSE OF X-7. IT WAS OVER SIXTY YEARS AGO THAT I FIRST SAW HIM. HE MUST BE DEAD BY NOW!

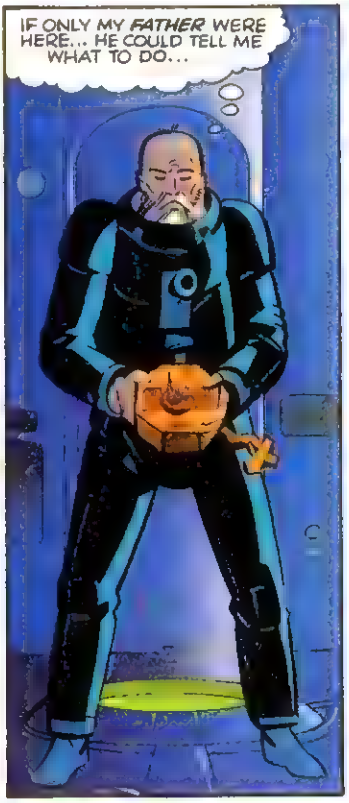

WELCOME, Dr. QUEST. I TRUST YOU SLEPT WELL...? I THINK YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING IN ORDER.
AND WE HAVE A *PRESENT* FOR YOU. ONE OF THE CONSTRUCTION 'BOTS JUST RECOVERED AN EARLY QUEST FOUNDATION SATELLITE FROM DEEP SPACE!

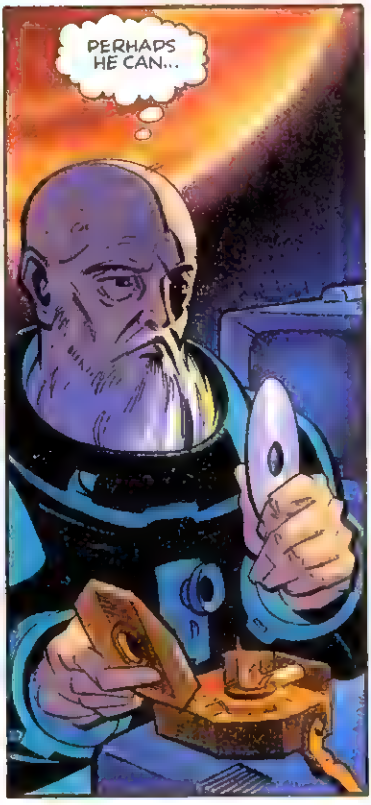

IT CONTAINED THIS RECORDING DEVICE WITH ;coff; A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM ;coff; YOUR *FATHER*.
;COFF; ;COFF;

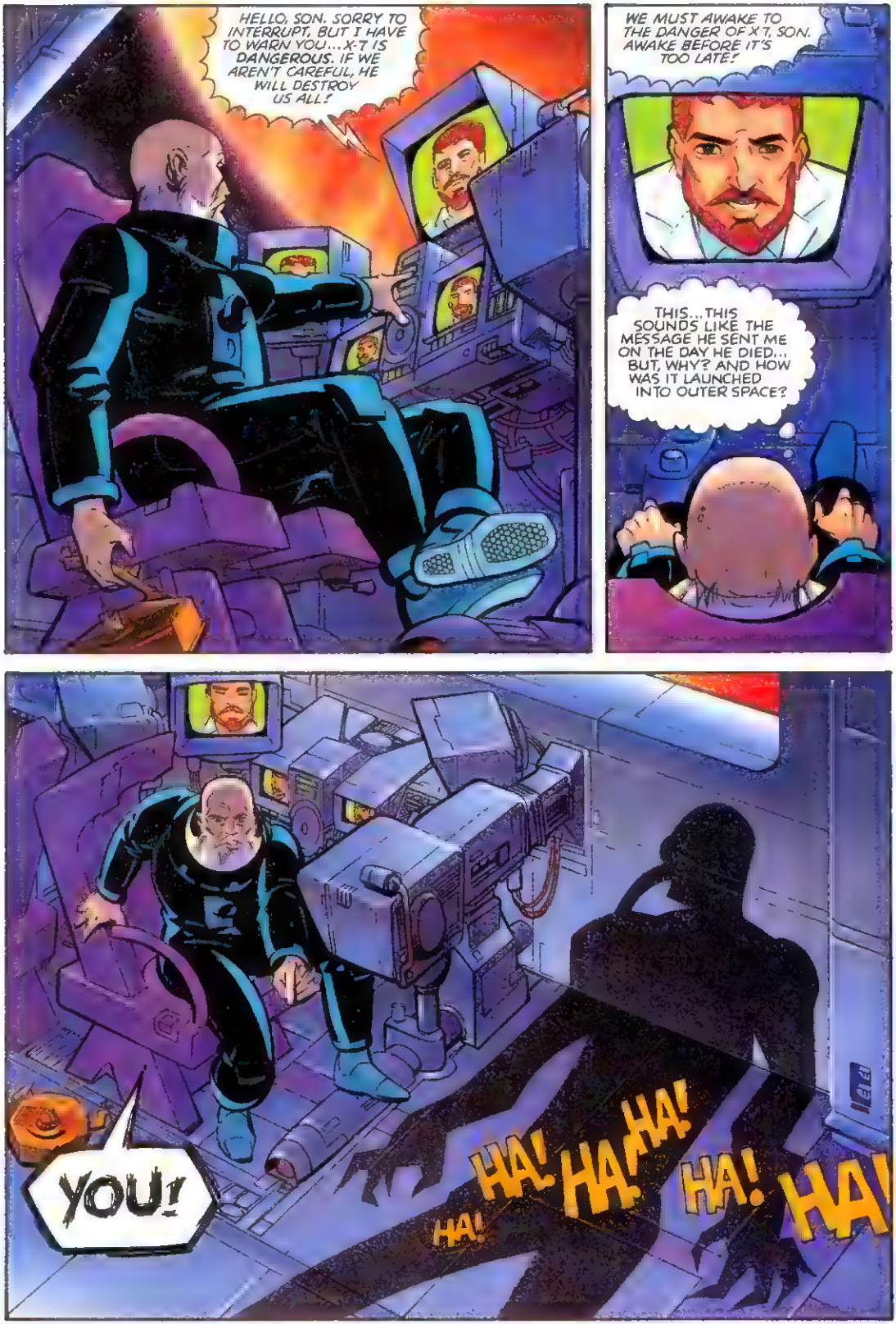
;CHOKE! ;GASP!;
MY GOD! THEY'RE *CHOKING* TO DEATH! I'VE GOT TO GET *HELP!*
;HUK HUK;


:Gasp!: THE WHOLE CREW IS DEAD! STRANGLED WITH THE DEADLY CORDS OF X-7!


DEAD... THEY'RE ALL DEAD! I'M ALONE!


IF ONLY MY *FATHER* WERE HERE... HE COULD TELL ME WHAT TO DO...


PERHAPS HE CAN...


HELLO, SON. SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU... X-7 IS DANGEROUS. IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL, HE WILL DESTROY US ALL!
WE MUST AWAKE TO THE DANGER OF X-7, SON. AWAKE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THIS... THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE MESSAGE HE SENT ME ON THE DAY HE DIED... BUT, WHY? AND HOW WAS IT LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE?
YOU!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

SO, DOCTOR... WE MEET AGAIN.
YOU! YOU MONSTER! YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYONE I'VE EVER LOVED!
I'VE DONE MY BEST.
BUT DON'T BLAME ME, QUEST! YOU HAVE CAUSED EVERY DEATH. THEY ARE YOUR FAULT! YOURS!
HAHAHAHAHAHAH!
NO. . NO!

HA! HA! HA! HA!
NO!
I'LL PUT AN END TO YOUR EVIL FOREVER!
NO, DOCTOR, YOU WILL DIE! AND WHEN THE PEOPLE OF EARTH BEGIN TO BOARD THIS SHIP, I WILL BE WAITING FOR THEM!
THEY WILL DIE, ONE BY ONE...AND IT WILL BE ALL YOUR FAULT!
click!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SON...
BUT WE MUST ALL AWAKE TO THE DANGER OF X-7. MUST AWAKE TO THE DANGER OF X-7.
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
...MUST AWAKE... ...MUST AWAKE...

..MUST AWAKE...
..MUST AWAKE...
:COFF:..:COFF:...IT..IT WAS ALL A DREAM! BUT I STILL..:Gasp:..CAN'T BREATHE...THAT CANNISTER...X-T!
:COFF:...
:COFF:...DAD...RACE
..HADJI..NO!

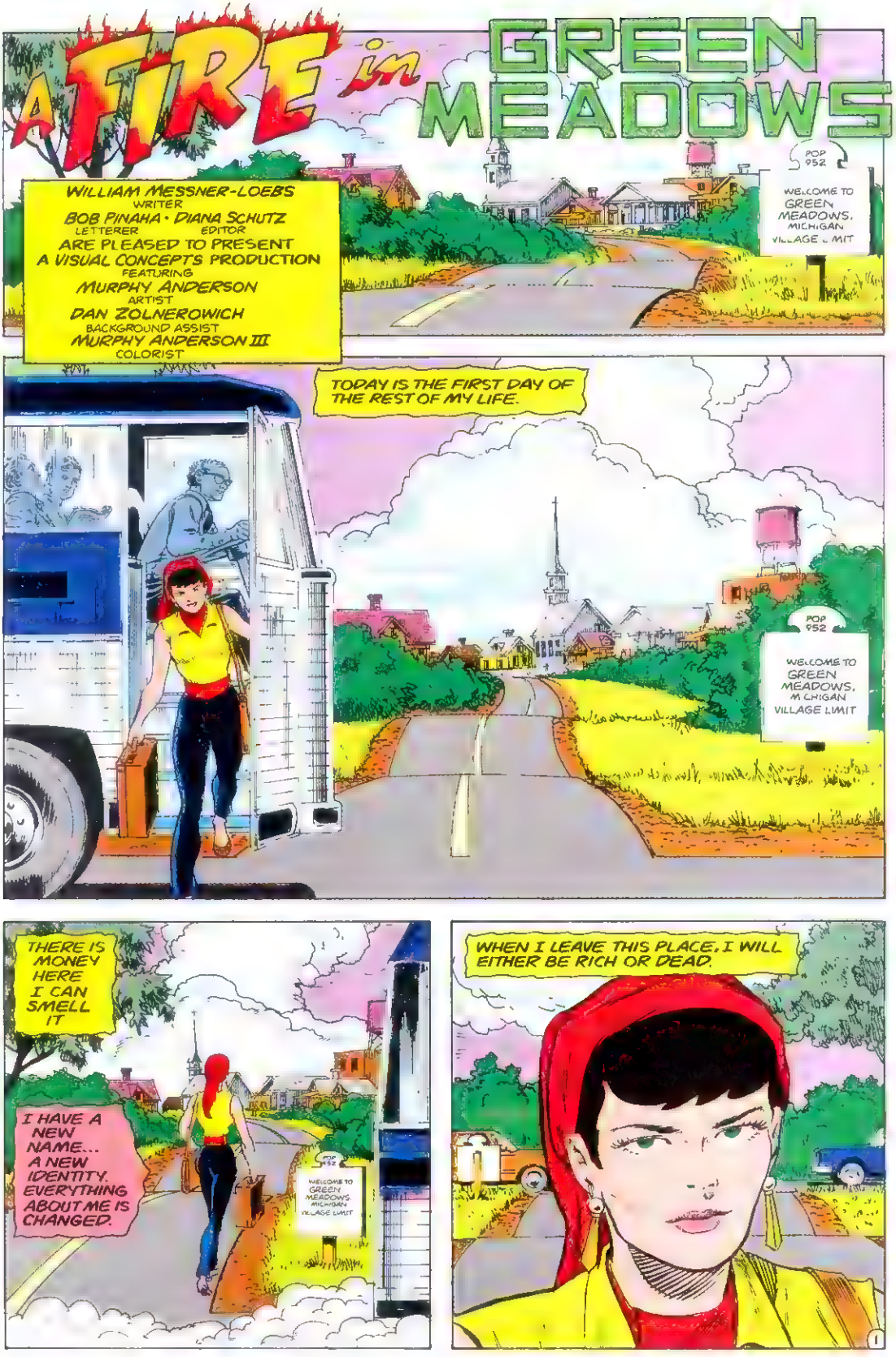
I .I...REMEMBER NOW...?Gosp£... IT WAS A TEST...
"DAD WAS SENT A CANNISTER OF X-7, THE MIRACLE INSECTICIDE, TO TEST... TO SEE IF IT WAS HARMFUL TO PEOPLE.
"BUT BEFORE THE TESTS COULD START, BANDIT BUMPED ME AND I FELL AGAINST THE CANNISTER.
"THE FUMES WERE SMOTHERING... WE PASSED OUT..."
CAN'T STAY AWAKE MUCH LONGER...?COFF-COFF£...GOT TO PULL EVERYBODY OUT OF HERE!

GASP!...THEY'RE TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO CARRY... WHAT'LL I DO? THEY'LL DIE, UNLESS...
...THE CANNISTER!
COFF-COFF!...I CAN CARRY THE CANNISTER!
SKRAAK!!
WHOOSH!!
EMERGENCY VENTILATION
FAN
OXYGEN

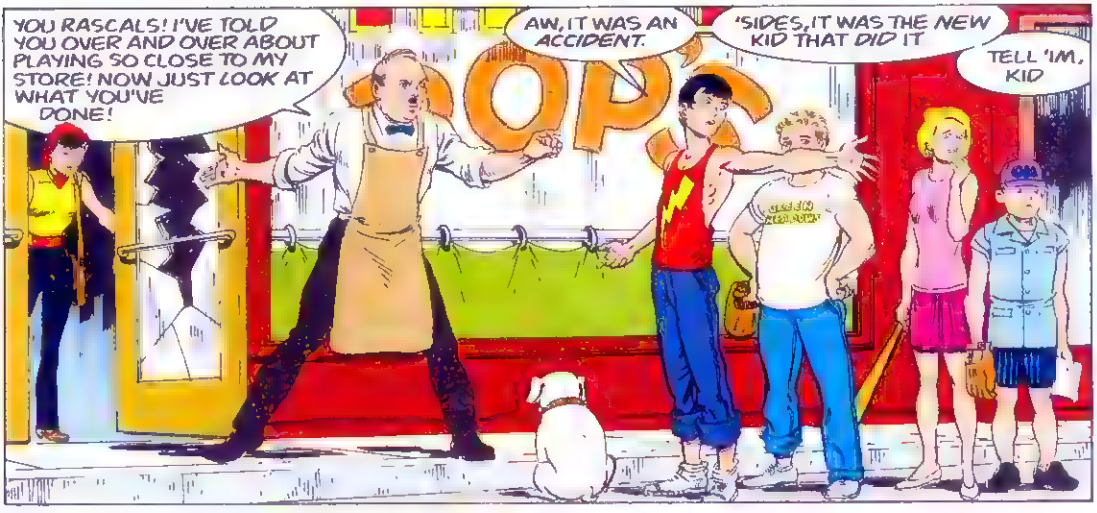
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ACCEPTABLE RISK"? WE WERE ALL NEARLY KILLED BY THAT BLASTED PESTICIDE OF YOURS!
WELL, NO, IT WASN'T STRICTLY A TEST, BUT .. NO, IT WASN'T A CONTROLLED SITUATION... BUT... BUT...
THIS ISN'T THE END OF THIS! I INTEND FILING A DETAILED PROTEST WITH... NOW, WAIT A SECOND! DON'T YOU DARE HANG UP ON ME...!
HE HUNG UP ON ME!
Humph!
"HAVE A NICE DAY" INDEED!
BOY, THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME DREAM YOU HAD, JONNY!
IT WAS AWFUL, RACE! I FELT SO BAD-- AS IF I WERE GUILTY ALL THE TIME!
I WAS FAMOUS AND STUFF... BUT EVERYTHING I DID WAS WRONG!
AND EVERYBODY WAS IN MY DREAM-- EVEN JADE!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, KID! SHE WAS IN MY DREAM, TOO!

DREAMS ARE FUNNY THINGS, SON. I THINK YOUR MIND WAS DOING ITS BEST TO TRICK YOU INTO WAKING UP.
IT WORKED, TOO!
I DON'T KNOW, JONNY--IT WAS NOT ALL BAD. I HAD A SPACESHIP NAMED AFTER ME! THE HADJI--SOUNDS PRETTY INTERESTING.
AND WE WERE FRIENDS, HADJI--FRIENDS FOR ALL TIME, NO MATTER WHAT! THAT WAS THE BEST PART--RIGHT, BANDIT?
GRRR!
ARF ARF!
LABO
-DEDICATED WITH THANKS TO DOUG WILDEY! STEACY-86

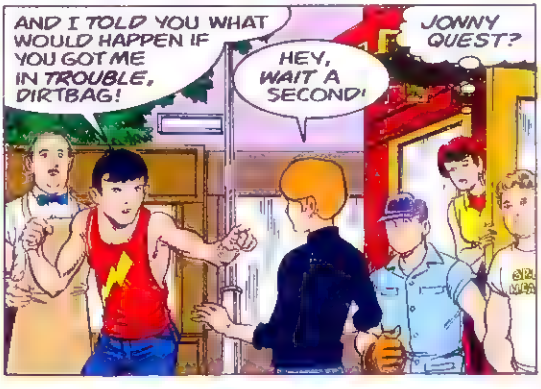
THE END, eh?!

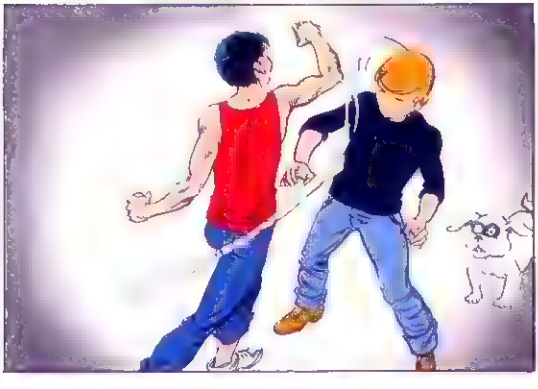

A FIRE in GREEN MEADOWS
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS
WRITER
BOB PINAHA • DIANA SCHUTZ
LETTERER EDITOR
ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT
A VISUAL CONCEPTS PRODUCTION
FEATURING
MURPHY ANDERSON
ARTIST
DAN ZOLNEROWICH
BACKGROUND ASSIST
MURPHY ANDERSON III
COLORIST
POP 952
WELCOME TO GREEN MEADOWS, MICHIGAN VILLAGE LIMIT
TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE.
POP 952
WELCOME TO GREEN MEADOWS, MICHIGAN VILLAGE LIMIT
THERE IS MONEY HERE I CAN SMELL IT
I HAVE A NEW NAME... A NEW IDENTITY. EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS CHANGED.
POP 952
WELCOME TO GREEN MEADOWS, MICHIGAN VILLAGE LIMIT
WHEN I LEAVE THIS PLACE, I WILL EITHER BE RICH OR DEAD.
1

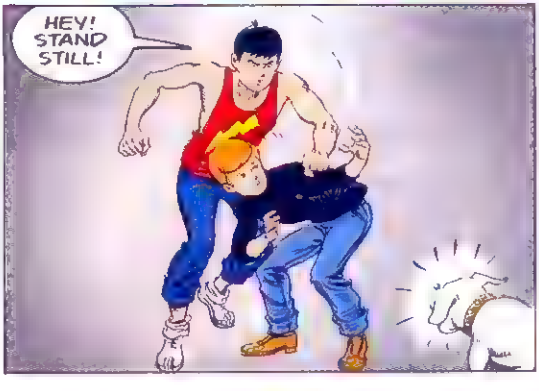
I SEE THEM GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, PLAYING OUT SOME PRIVATE COMEDY, AND I WONDER, "HOW MUCH DO THEY KNOW? WILL I BE FORCED TO KILL THIS ONE OR THAT ONE?"
POP'S
"WHERE DO MY ENEMIES HIDE?" I WONDER. "WHO WILL BETRAY ME? IS THIS THE DAY A BULLET WILL EXPLODE OUT OF MY BLIND SIDE? WILL I MISS THE SCENT OF POISON OR NEVER NOTICE THE TRIP WIRE BEFORE MY LEGS ARE TORN AWAY?"
I LEAD SUCH AN INTERESTING LIFE.
WAITRESS WANTED
APPLY WITHIN
WELL, I CAN CERTAINLY USE THE HELP, MISS... UH, GREENSTREET.
NOT REALLY.
AND CALL ME JESSIE.
I'M HIRED, THEN?
DO YOU HAIL FROM AROUND HERE?
OH, SURE. GLAD TO HAVE YOU. MY LAST GIRL WAS SCARED AWAY BY THE PANTHER.
PANTHER?
YEP. THERE'VE BEEN LEGENDS OF A BIG, BLACK PANTHER IN THE WOODS SINCE I WAS A BOY, BUT LATELY...
YOW!
CRA-SKASH
WHAT'S THAT?!
2

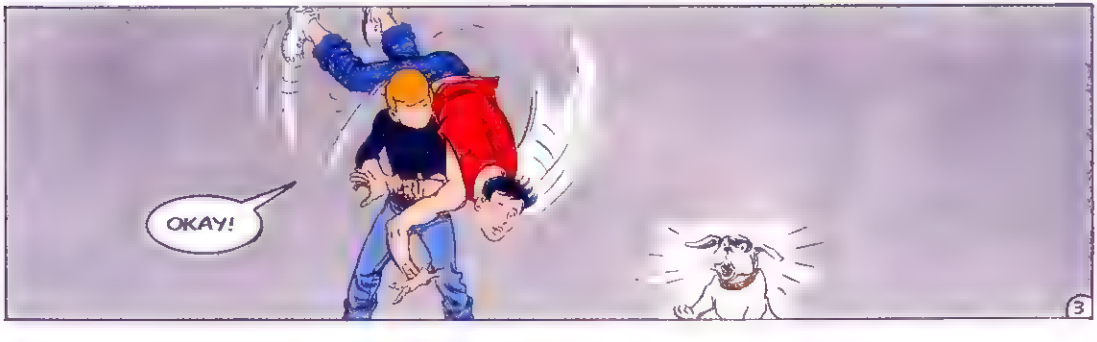

YOU RASCALS! I'VE TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER ABOUT PLAYING SO CLOSE TO MY STORE! NOW JUST LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
AW, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
'SIDES, IT WAS THE NEW KID THAT DID IT
TELL 'IM, KID
POP'S

IT WAS NOT! IT WAS NOT! YOU WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME BAT, FINN SAWYER!
YOU HIT THAT BALL!

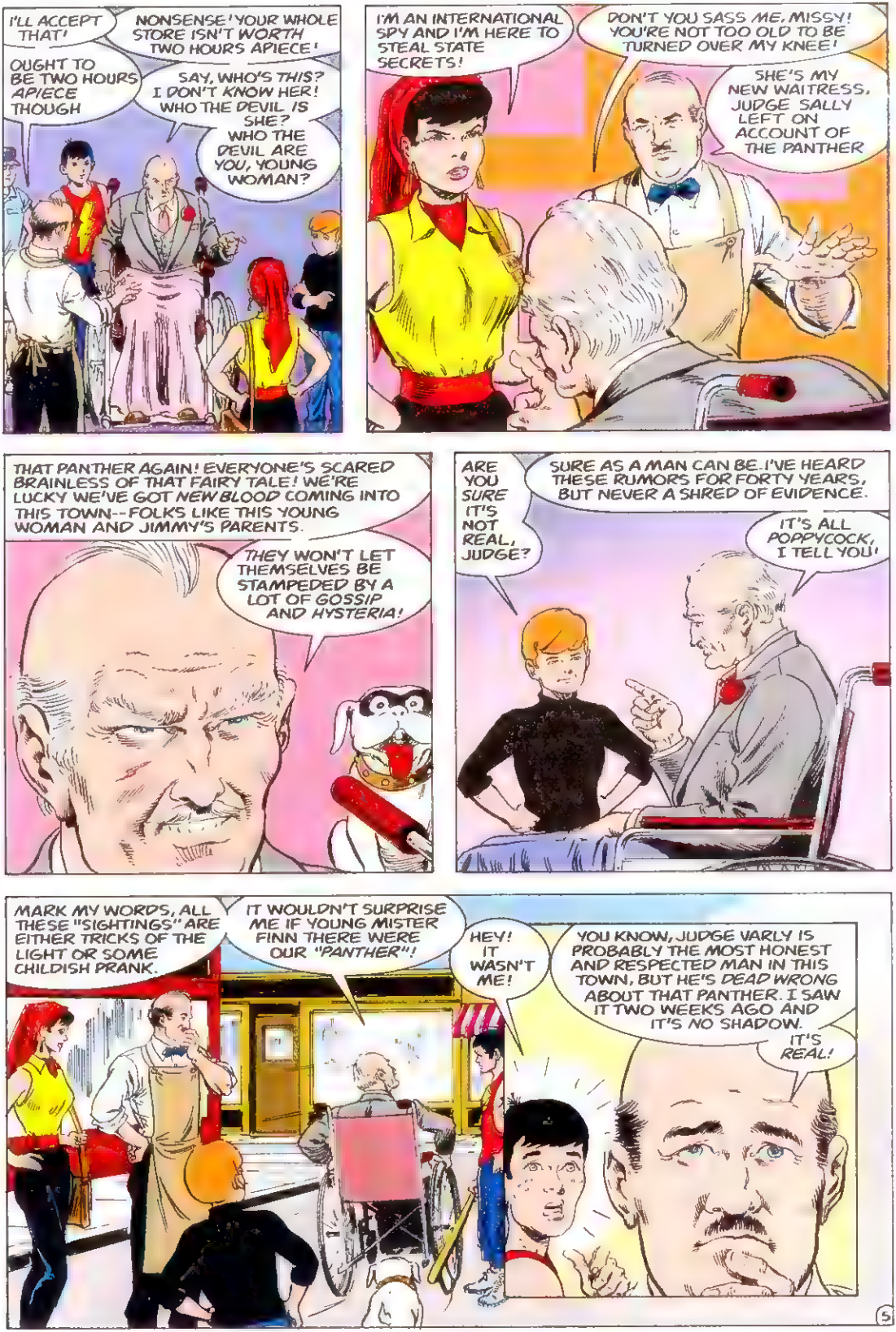

AND I TOLD YOU WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GOT ME IN TROUBLE, DIRTBAG!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
JONNY QUEST?

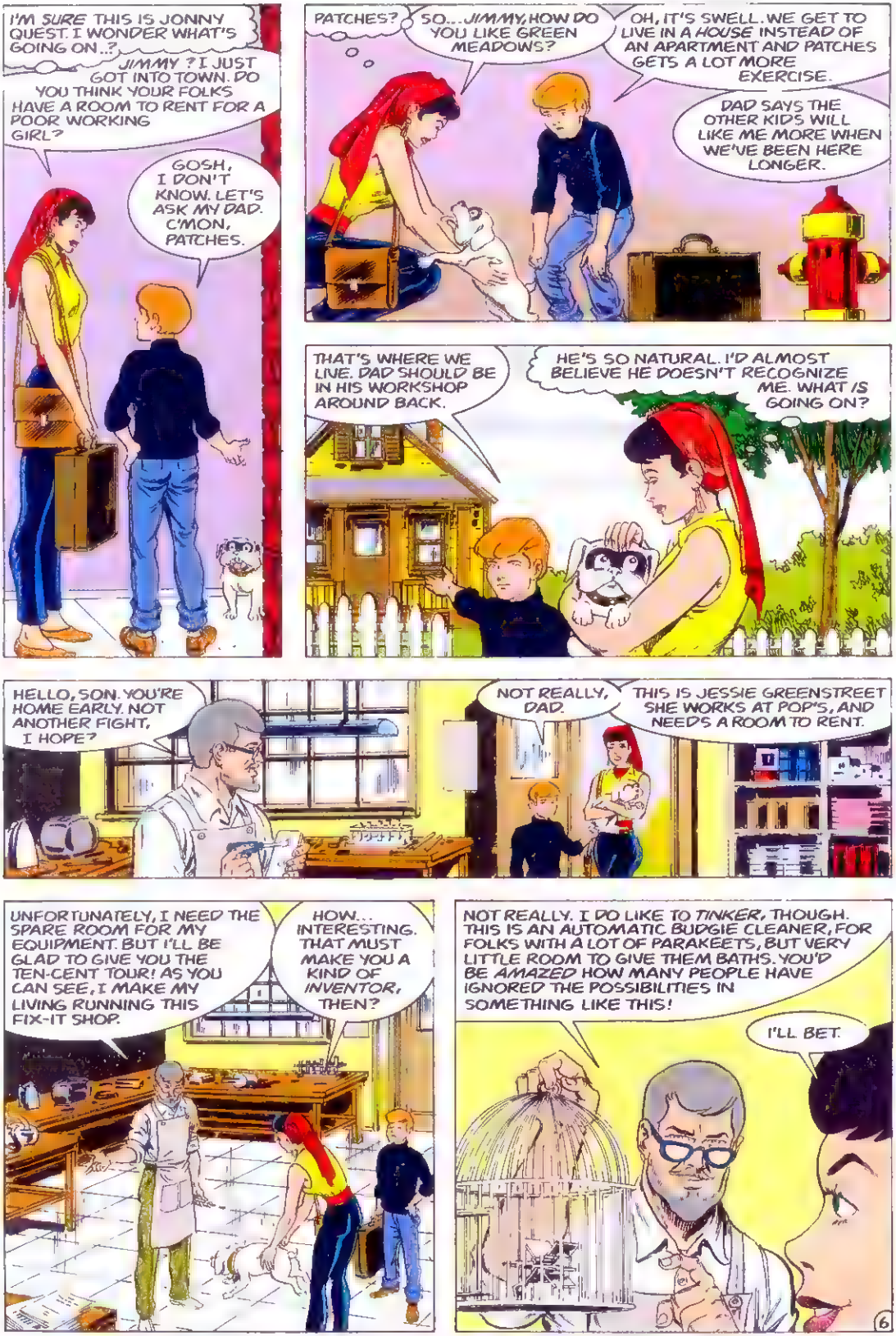


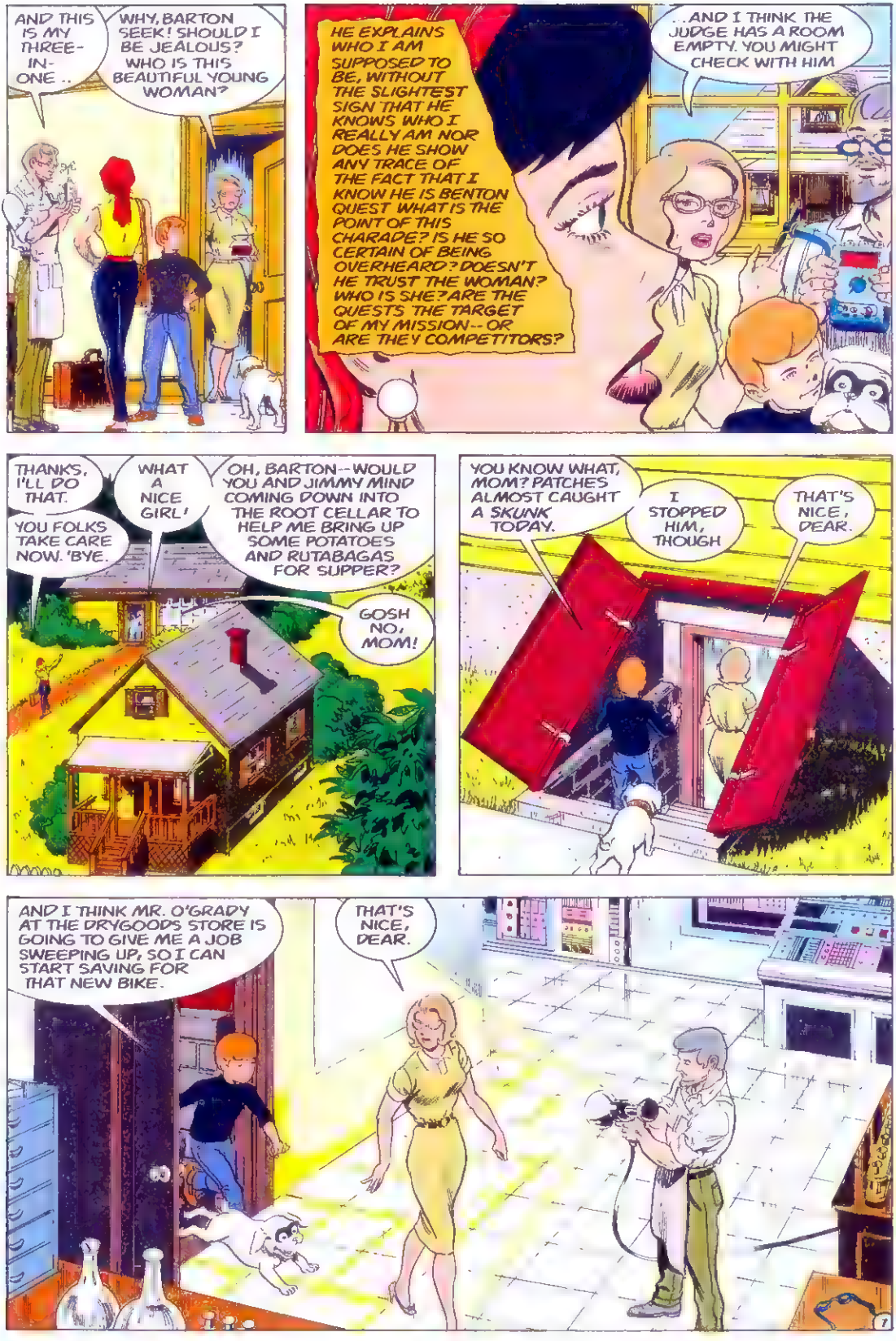

HEY! STAND STILL!

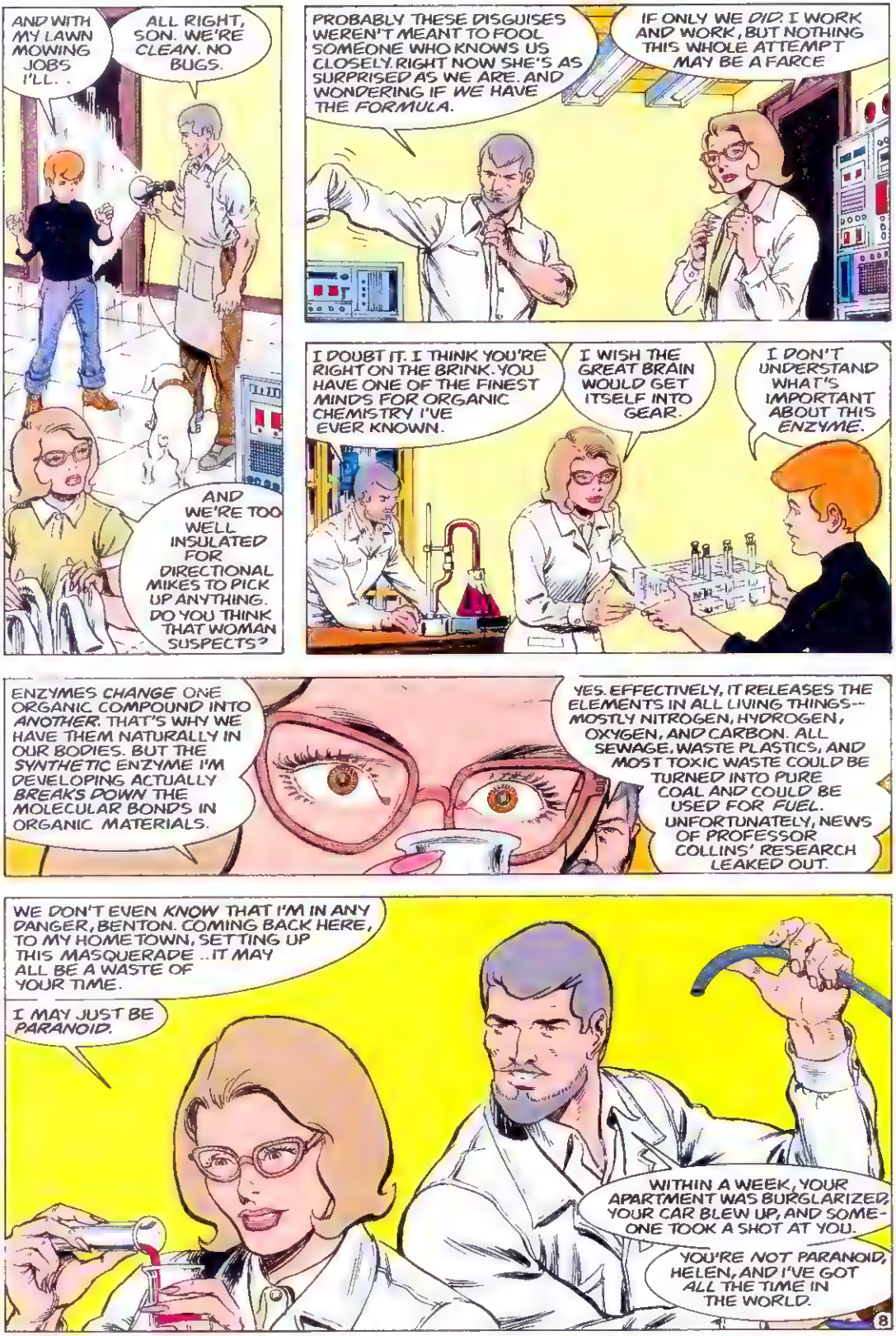

OKAY!

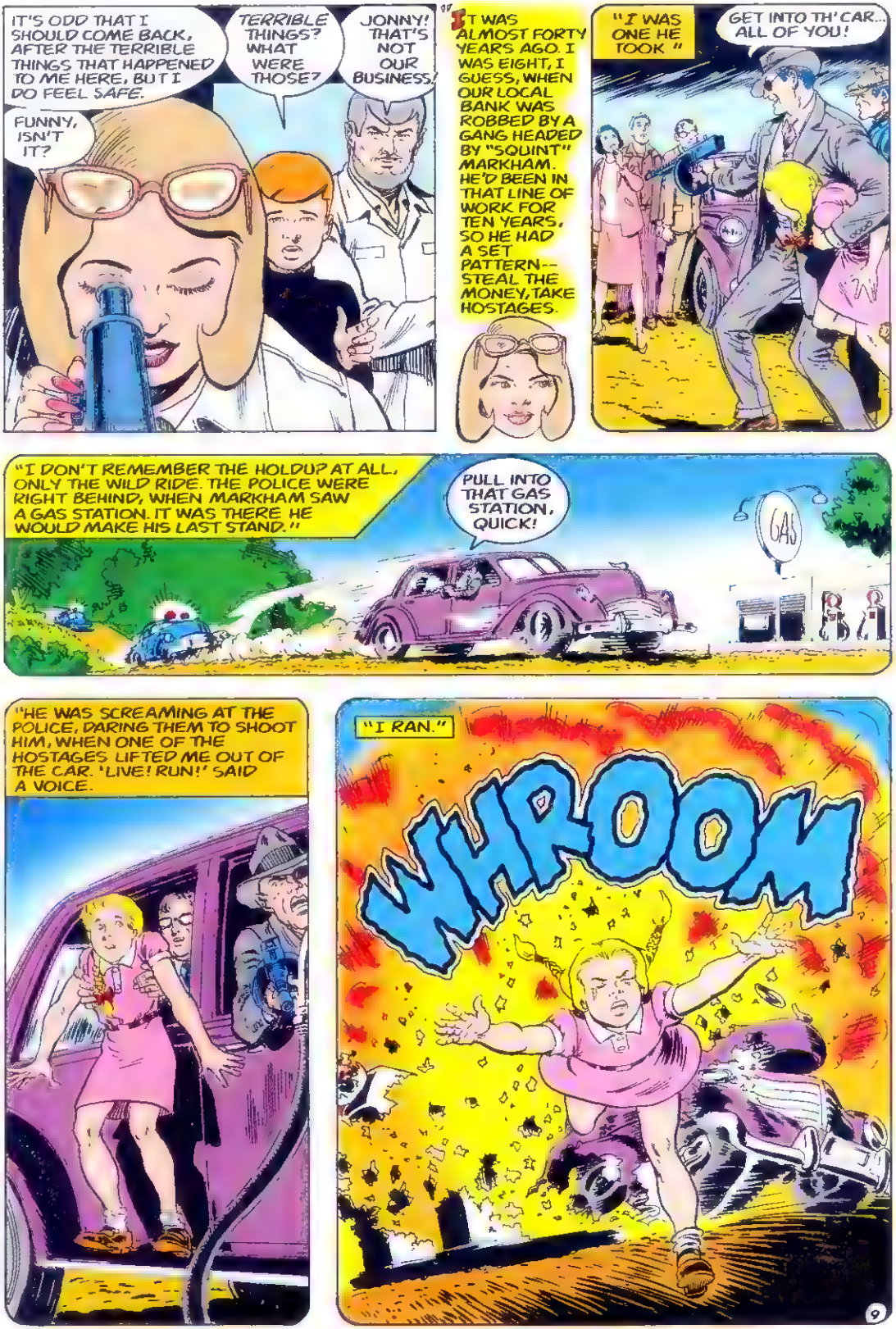
HEY! NO FAIR! THAT HURT!
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING? STOP THAT!
JONNY QUEST HERE? WHAT'S HE UP TO?
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S THIS, NOW?
BRAWLING ON A PUBLIC STREET... AND BEFORE LUNCH? THAT'S A CRIME, YOU YOUNG SCAMPS! WHAT'S THE TORT HERE?
WHO'S THE PLAINTIFF?
I EXPECTED BETTER FROM YOU, JIMMY SEEK!
GOSH, JUDGE VARLY-- IT WASN'T ME.
FINN PUT A BALL THROUGH POP'S WINDOW AND...
DON'T LISTEN T'HIM, JUDGE! HE'S A LIAR!
DON'T YOU BE CALLING NAMES, FINDELY SAWYER!
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU! WOULD HAVE COME DOWN ON YOU LIKE A TON OF BRICKS...EXCEPT I KNOW HOW YOUR FATHER TREATS YOU.
AW, HE DON'T BEAT ME BAD.
I CAN TAKE IT
NEVERTHELESS, YOUR CONDUCT WAS INEXCUSABLE.
A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED AND REPARATION MUST BE MADE!
THIS IS MY SENTENCE!
SINCE ALL OF YOU WERE IN THE GAME, ALL OF YOU WILL PAY THE PIPER!
EACH OF YOU WILL WORK ONE HOUR NEXT WEEK AT POP'S TO PAY FOR THE WINDOW...
...EXCEPT FOR MR. SAWYER, WHO WILL WORK TWO HOURS
FAIR?

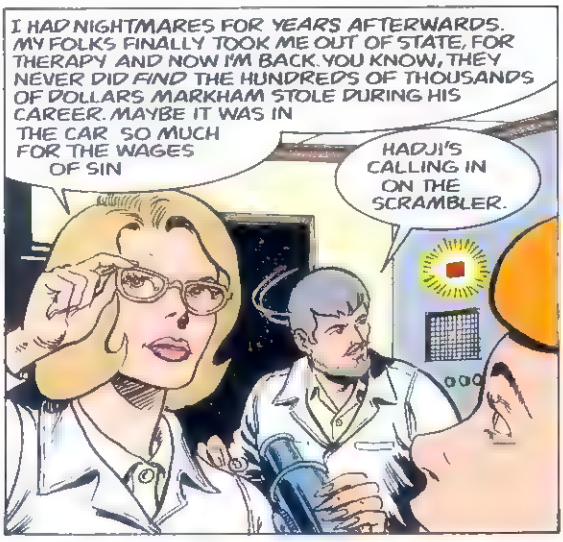

I'LL ACCEPT THAT!
NONSENSE! YOUR WHOLE STORE ISN'T WORTH TWO HOURS APIECE!
OUGHT TO BE TWO HOURS APIECE THOUGH
SAY, WHO'S THIS? I DON'T KNOW HER! WHO THE DEVIL IS SHE?
WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU, YOUNG WOMAN?
I'M AN INTERNATIONAL SPY AND I'M HERE TO STEAL STATE SECRETS!
DON'T YOU SASS ME, MISSY! YOU'RE NOT TOO OLD TO BE TURNED OVER MY KNEE!
SHE'S MY NEW WAITRESS, JUDGE SALLY LEFT ON ACCOUNT OF THE PANTHER
THAT PANTHER AGAIN! EVERYONE'S SCARED BRAINLESS OF THAT FAIRY TALE! WE'RE LUCKY WE'VE GOT NEW BLOOD COMING INTO THIS TOWN--FOLKS LIKE THIS YOUNG WOMAN AND JIMMY'S PARENTS.
THEY WON'T LET THEMSELVES BE STAMPEDED BY A LOT OF GOSSIP AND HYSTERIA!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT REAL, JUDGE?
SURE AS A MAN CAN BE. I'VE HEARD THESE RUMORS FOR FORTY YEARS, BUT NEVER A SHRED OF EVIDENCE.
IT'S ALL POPPYCOCK, I TELL YOU!
MARK MY WORDS, ALL THESE "SIGHTINGS" ARE EITHER TRICKS OF THE LIGHT OR SOME CHILDISH PRANK.
IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF YOUNG MISTER FINN THERE WERE OUR "PANTHER"!
HEY! IT WASN'T ME!
YOU KNOW, JUDGE VARLY IS PROBABLY THE MOST HONEST AND RESPECTED MAN IN THIS TOWN, BUT HE'S DEAD WRONG ABOUT THAT PANTHER. I SAW IT TWO WEEKS AGO AND IT'S NO SHADOW.
IT'S REAL!

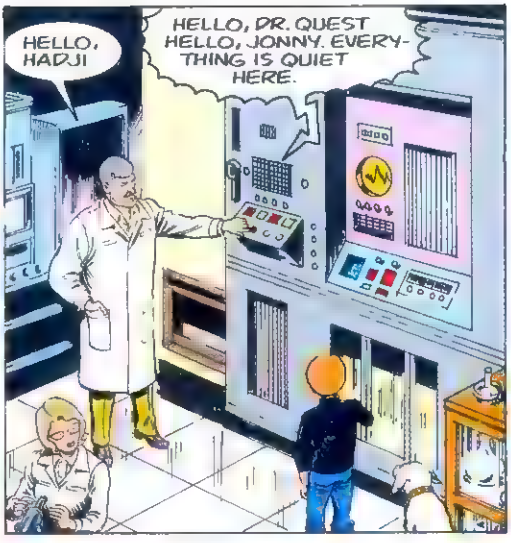

I'M SURE THIS IS JONNY QUEST. I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON..?
JIMMY ? I JUST GOT INTO TOWN. DO YOU THINK YOUR FOLKS HAVE A ROOM TO RENT FOR A POOR WORKING GIRL?
GOSH, I DON'T KNOW. LET'S ASK MY DAD. C'MON, PATCHES.
PATCHES?
SO... JIMMY, HOW DO YOU LIKE GREEN MEADOWS?
OH, IT'S SWELL. WE GET TO LIVE IN A HOUSE INSTEAD OF AN APARTMENT AND PATCHES GETS A LOT MORE EXERCISE.
DAD SAYS THE OTHER KIDS WILL LIKE ME MORE WHEN WE'VE BEEN HERE LONGER.
THAT'S WHERE WE LIVE. DAD SHOULD BE IN HIS WORKSHOP AROUND BACK.
HE'S SO NATURAL. I'D ALMOST BELIEVE HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME. WHAT IS GOING ON?
HELLO, SON. YOU'RE HOME EARLY. NOT ANOTHER FIGHT, I HOPE?
NOT REALLY, DAD.
THIS IS JESSIE GREENSTREET SHE WORKS AT POP'S, AND NEEDS A ROOM TO RENT.
UNFORTUNATELY, I NEED THE SPARE ROOM FOR MY EQUIPMENT. BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU THE TEN-CENT TOUR! AS YOU CAN SEE, I MAKE MY LIVING RUNNING THIS FIX-IT SHOP.
HOW... INTERESTING. THAT MUST MAKE YOU A KIND OF INVENTOR, THEN?
NOT REALLY. I DO LIKE TO TINKER, THOUGH. THIS IS AN AUTOMATIC BUDGIE CLEANER, FOR FOLKS WITH A LOT OF PARAKEETS, BUT VERY LITTLE ROOM TO GIVE THEM BATHS. YOU'D BE AMAZED HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE IGNORED THE POSSIBILITIES IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
I'LL BET.
6


AND THIS IS MY THREE-IN-ONE..
WHY, BARTON SEEK! SHOULD I BE JEALOUS? WHO IS THIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN?
HE EXPLAINS WHO I AM SUPPOSED TO BE, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN THAT HE KNOWS WHO I REALLY AM NOR DOES HE SHOW ANY TRACE OF THE FACT THAT I KNOW HE IS BENTON QUEST WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS CHARADE? IS HE SO CERTAIN OF BEING OVERHEARD? DOESN'T HE TRUST THE WOMAN? WHO IS SHE? ARE THE QUESTS THE TARGET OF MY MISSION--OR ARE THEY COMPETITORS?
..AND I THINK THE JUDGE HAS A ROOM EMPTY. YOU MIGHT CHECK WITH HIM
THANKS, I'LL DO THAT.
YOU FOLKS TAKE CARE NOW. 'BYE.
WHAT A NICE GIRL!
OH, BARTON--WOULD YOU AND JIMMY MIND COMING DOWN INTO THE ROOT CELLAR TO HELP ME BRING UP SOME POTATOES AND RUTABAGAS FOR SUPPER?
GOSH NO, MOM!
YOU KNOW WHAT, MOM? PATCHES ALMOST CAUGHT A SKUNK TODAY.
I STOPPED HIM, THOUGH
THAT'S NICE, DEAR.
AND I THINK MR. O'GRADY AT THE DRYGOODS STORE IS GOING TO GIVE ME A JOB SWEEPING UP, SO I CAN START SAVING FOR THAT NEW BIKE.
THAT'S NICE, DEAR.

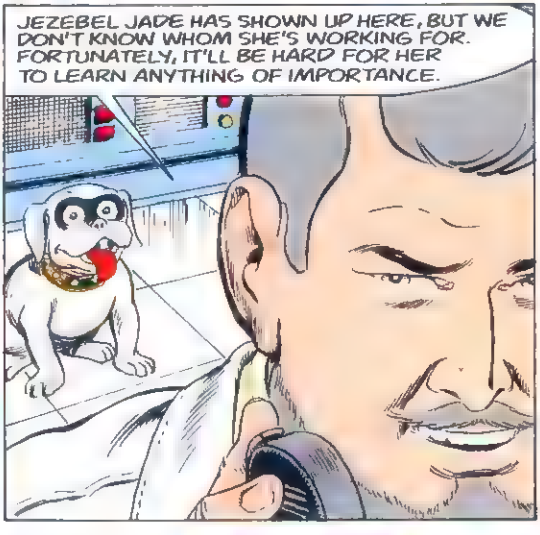

AND WITH MY LAWN MOWING JOBS I'LL. .
ALL RIGHT, SON. WE'RE CLEAN. NO BUGS.
AND WE'RE TOO WELL INSULATED FOR DIRECTIONAL MIKES TO PICK UP ANYTHING. DO YOU THINK THAT WOMAN SUSPECTS?
PROBABLY THESE DISGUISES WEREN'T MEANT TO FOOL SOMEONE WHO KNOWS US CLOSELY. RIGHT NOW SHE'S AS SURPRISED AS WE ARE. AND WONDERING IF WE HAVE THE FORMULA.
IF ONLY WE DID. I WORK AND WORK, BUT NOTHING THIS WHOLE ATTEMPT MAY BE A FARCE
I DOUBT IT. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE BRINK. YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST MINDS FOR ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I'VE EVER KNOWN.
I WISH THE GREAT BRAIN WOULD GET ITSELF INTO GEAR.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS ENZYME.
ENZYMES CHANGE ONE ORGANIC COMPOUND INTO ANOTHER. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THEM NATURALLY IN OUR BODIES. BUT THE SYNTHETIC ENZYME I'M DEVELOPING ACTUALLY BREAKS DOWN THE MOLECULAR BONDS IN ORGANIC MATERIALS.
YES. EFFECTIVELY, IT RELEASES THE ELEMENTS IN ALL LIVING THINGS-- MOSTLY NITROGEN, HYDROGEN, OXYGEN, AND CARBON. ALL SEWAGE, WASTE PLASTICS, AND MOST TOXIC WASTE COULD BE TURNED INTO PURE COAL AND COULD BE USED FOR FUEL. UNFORTUNATELY, NEWS OF PROFESSOR COLLINS' RESEARCH LEAKED OUT.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT I'M IN ANY DANGER, BENTON. COMING BACK HERE, TO MY HOMETOWN, SETTING UP THIS MASQUERADE ..IT MAY ALL BE A WASTE OF YOUR TIME.
I MAY JUST BE PARANOID.
WITHIN A WEEK, YOUR APARTMENT WAS BURGLARIZED, YOUR CAR BLEW UP, AND SOMEONE TOOK A SHOT AT YOU.
YOU'RE NOT PARANOID, HELEN, AND I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.


IT'S ODD THAT I SHOULD COME BACK, AFTER THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO ME HERE, BUT I DO FEEL SAFE.
TERRIBLE THINGS? WHAT WERE THOSE?
JONNY! THAT'S NOT OUR BUSINESS.
FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
IT WAS ALMOST FORTY YEARS AGO. I WAS EIGHT, I GUESS, WHEN OUR LOCAL BANK WAS ROBBED BY A GANG HEADED BY "SQUINT" MARKHAM. HE'D BEEN IN THAT LINE OF WORK FOR TEN YEARS, SO HE HAD A SET PATTERN-- STEAL THE MONEY, TAKE HOSTAGES.
"I WAS ONE HE TOOK."
GET INTO TH' CAR... ALL OF YOU!
"I DON'T REMEMBER THE HOLDUP AT ALL, ONLY THE WILD RIDE. THE POLICE WERE RIGHT BEHIND, WHEN MARKHAM SAW A GAS STATION. IT WAS THERE HE WOULD MAKE HIS LAST STAND."
PULL INTO THAT GAS STATION, QUICK!
GAS
"HE WAS SCREAMING AT THE POLICE, DARING THEM TO SHOOT HIM, WHEN ONE OF THE HOSTAGES LIFTED ME OUT OF THE CAR. 'LIVE! RUN!' SAID A VOICE.
"I RAN."
WHOOM
9

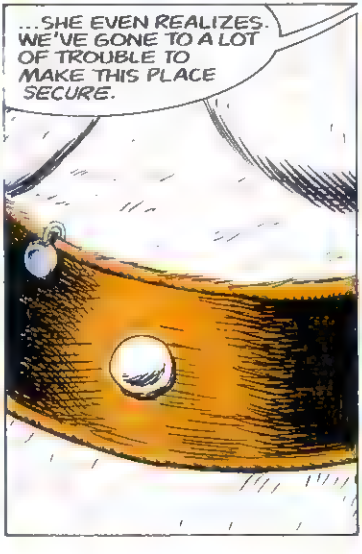

I HAD NIGHTMARES FOR YEARS AFTERWARDS. MY FOLKS FINALLY TOOK ME OUT OF STATE, FOR THERAPY AND NOW I'M BACK. YOU KNOW, THEY NEVER DID FIND THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS MARKHAM STOLE DURING HIS CAREER. MAYBE IT WAS IN THE CAR SO MUCH FOR THE WAGES OF SIN
HADJI'S CALLING IN ON THE SCRAMBLER.


HELLO, HADJI
HELLO, DR. QUEST. HELLO, JONNY. EVERYTHING IS QUIET HERE.

EVERY DAY RACE AND I BRING FOOD TO THE LAB. IF ANYONE IS WATCHING, I AM SURE THEY BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE WORKING THERE AROUND THE CLOCK.
GOOD I HOPE SO.

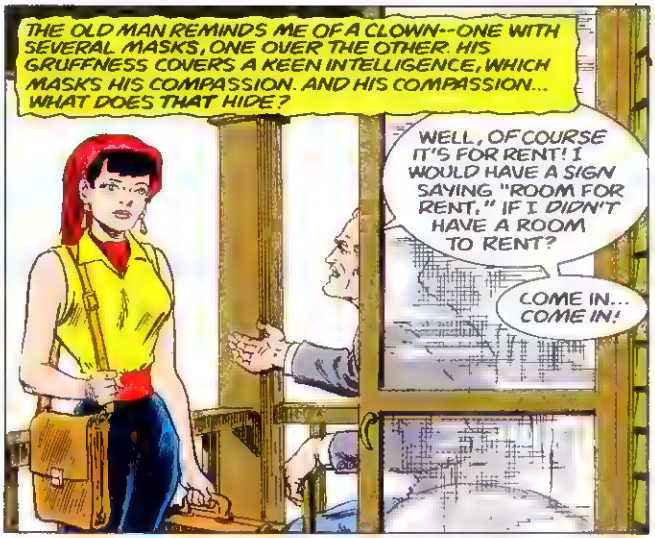

JEZEBEL JADE HAS SHOWN UP HERE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHOM SHE'S WORKING FOR. FORTUNATELY, IT'LL BE HARD FOR HER TO LEARN ANYTHING OF IMPORTANCE.

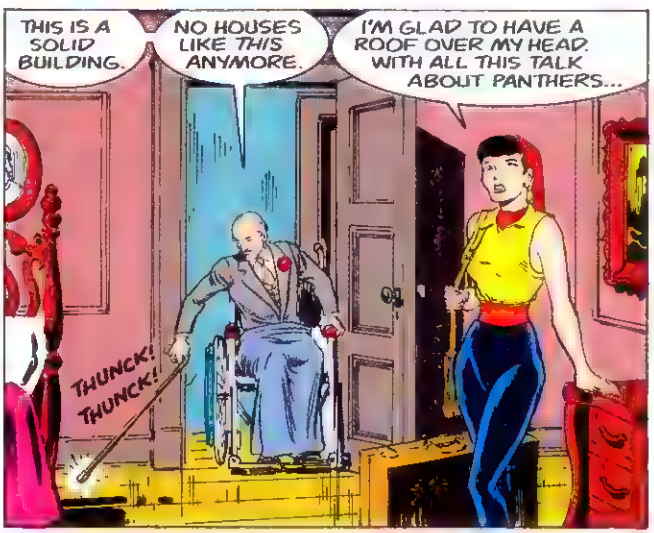
OUR SECURITY IS PRETTY TIGHT. WE WILL HAVE FINISHED OUR RESEARCH AND BE GONE BEFORE...


...SHE EVEN REALIZES. WE'VE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO MAKE THIS PLACE SECURE.

Hmmmm

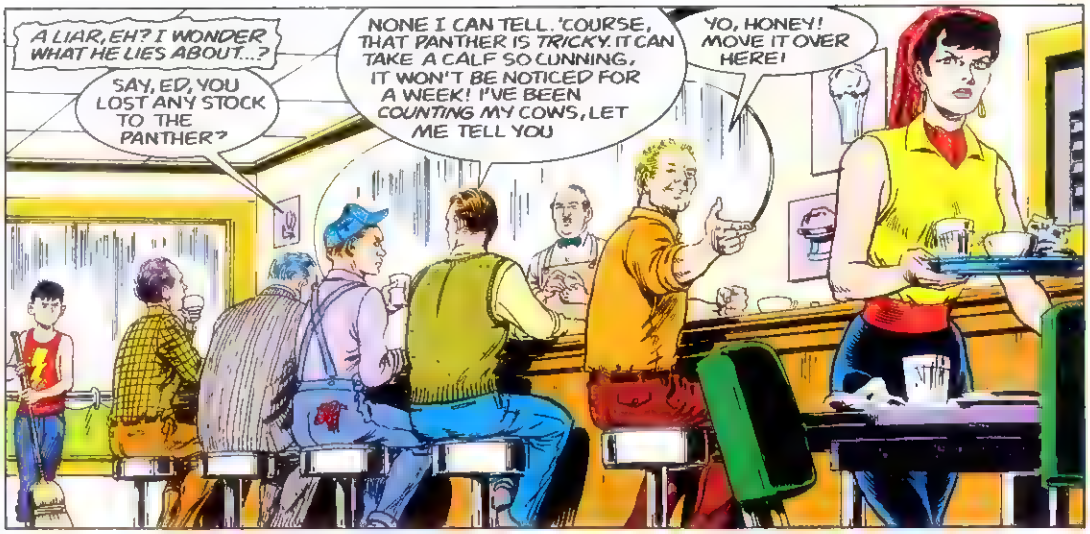
SO NOW I KNOW SOME OF THE RULES OF THE GAME. THE NEXT THING I NEED IS A SAFE BASE
ROOM FOR RENT


THE OLD MAN REMINDS ME OF A CLOWN--ONE WITH SEVERAL MASKS, ONE OVER THE OTHER. HIS GRUFFNESS COVERS A KEEN INTELLIGENCE, WHICH MASKS HIS COMPASSION. AND HIS COMPASSION... WHAT DOES THAT HIDE?
WELL, OF COURSE IT'S FOR RENT! I WOULD HAVE A SIGN SAYING "ROOM FOR RENT," IF I DIDN'T HAVE A ROOM TO RENT?
COME IN... COME IN!


THIS IS A SOLID BUILDING.
NO HOUSES LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
I'M GLAD TO HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD. WITH ALL THIS TALK ABOUT PANTHERS...
THUNCK! THUNCK!

BALDERDASH! EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS, FOLKS AROUND THIS TOWN REINVENT THE PANTHER TO GIVE THEM A REASON FOR NOT GETTING ON WITH THEIR LIVES.
OH, WELL... MR....um... POP SEEMS LIKE A NICE OLD...

PETER MORRIS, OR "POP," HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LIAR. HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN... TAKE MY WORD FOR IT... DANGEROUS!


A LIAR, EH? I WONDER WHAT HE LIES ABOUT...?
SAY, ED, YOU LOST ANY STOCK TO THE PANTHER?
NONE I CAN TELL. 'COURSE, THAT PANTHER IS TRICKY. IT CAN TAKE A CALF SO CUNNING, IT WON'T BE NOTICED FOR A WEEK! I'VE BEEN COUNTING MY COWS, LET ME TELL YOU
YO, HONEY! MOVE IT OVER HERE!

YES, SIR WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A MENU?
TELL YOU WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE, GIRLIE. I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU ON THIS STOOL OVER HERE, KEEPING ME COMPANY.
WHAT YOU GOT TO SAY TO THAT?

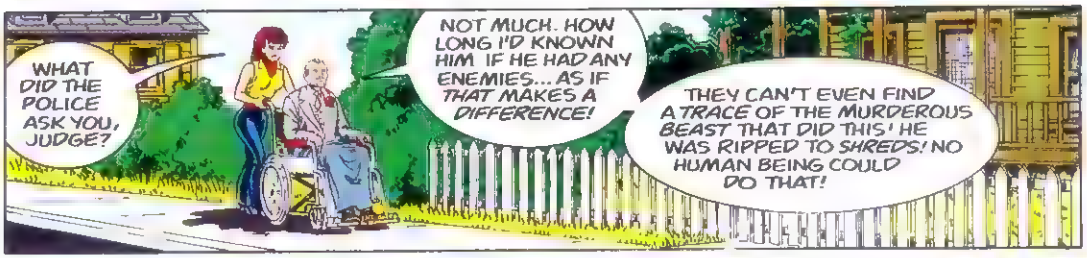
IF YOU DO NOT TAKE YOUR HAND OFF MY ARM IMMEDIATELY, I WILL HURT YOU IN A WAY THAT LEAVES NO BRUISES, BUT WILL CAUSE YOU SUCH PAIN THAT YOU WILL BEG FOR DEATH.
GULP

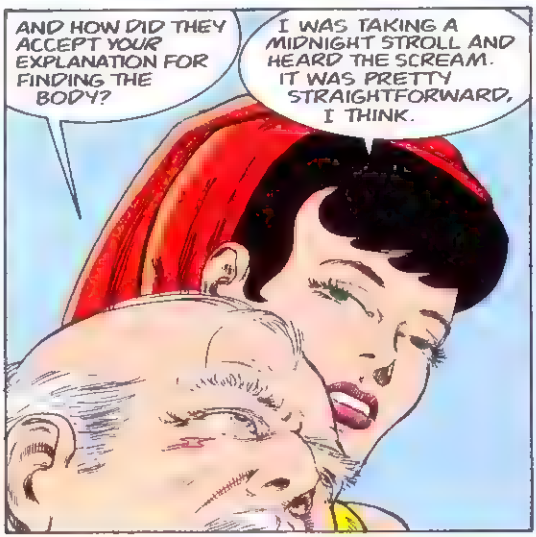
HEY, IF YOU DON'T WANNA SIT, DON'T SIT.

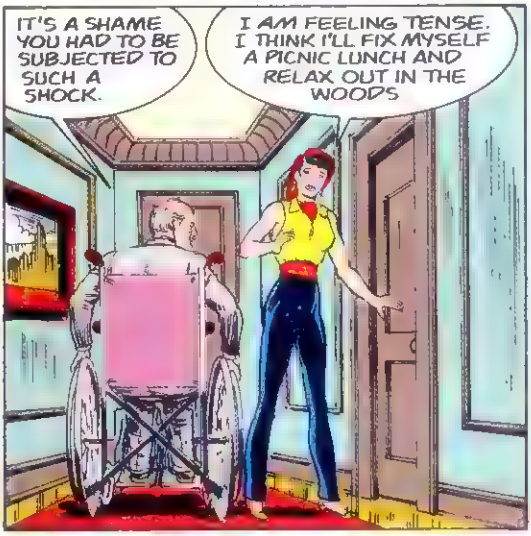
HERE'S THE BLUE PLATE SPECIAL FOR TABLE TWO. AND LOOK...
...DON'T THREATEN THE CUSTOMERS. THEY DON'T EAT AS MUCH
I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.
I'VE BEEN HERE A WEEK AND FOUND NOTHING. I'VE GOT TO PROVOKE QUEST.
12

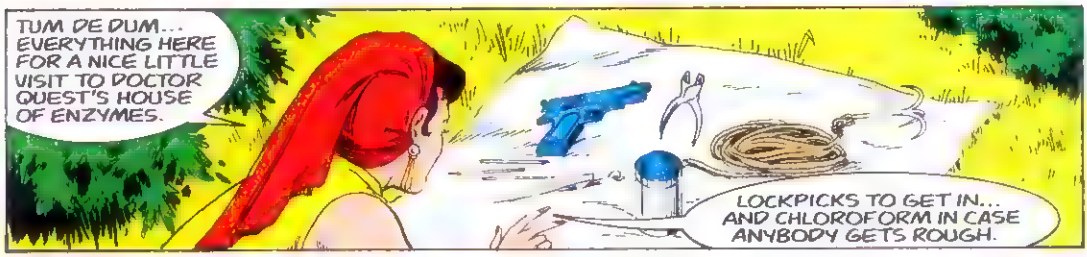
HEY! JIMMY SEEK! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
POP'S DELIVERY ENTRANCE
YOU MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL, AND THEN MY OLD MAN WALLOPED ME 'CAUSE OF IT!
THAT'S NOT MY FAULT! I...
I'M GOING TO FIX YOU!
HAI!
ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING AGAIN?
NO, POP. I... FELL ON THE BROOM FINN WAS JUST HELPING ME UP!
POP'S DELIVERY ENTRANCE
WELL, YOU'LL PAY FOR IT. BROOMS DON'T GROW ON TREES.
YES, SIR I KNOW
13

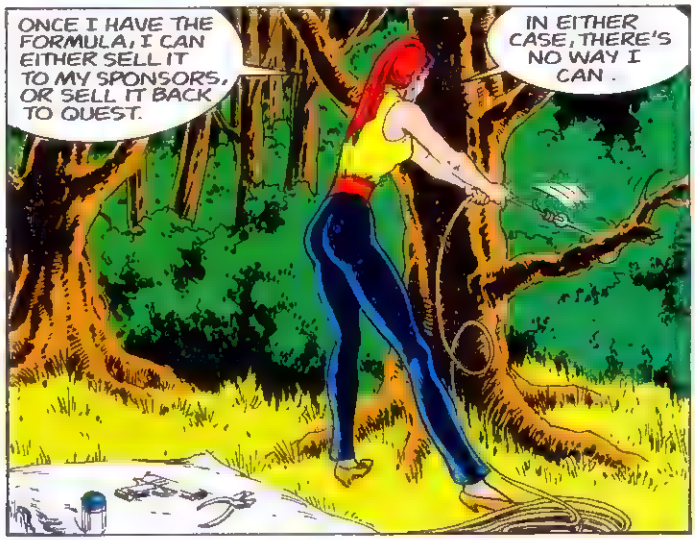
Dear Dr. Quest,
If you don't want the whole town to know who you are, meet me at midnight behind the malt shoppe
J.
WHY, HELLO, JADE. SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR DECORATING BANDIT'S COLLAR
YOU'RE WELCOME.
LOOK, POC, I WANT THAT ENZYME. MY BACKERS ARE WILLING TO PAY A LOT.
SORRY, BUT HELEN COLLINS OWNS IT, AND SHE DOESN'T WANT IT USED FOR DESTROYING THE WORLD.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST--
EH..?
AAAAAAAHH
WHAT WAS THAT?
I'M NOT SURE.
I THINK IT CAME FROM OVER THIS WAY.
LET'S GO IN HERE...
IT'S... POP!
HE'S BEEN TORN APART BY SOME WILD ANIMAL!
14


WHAT DID THE POLICE ASK YOU, JUDGE?
NOT MUCH. HOW LONG I'D KNOWN HIM IF HE HAD ANY ENEMIES... AS IF THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!
THEY CAN'T EVEN FIND A TRACE OF THE MURDEROUS BEAST THAT DID THIS! HE WAS RIPPED TO SHREDS! NO HUMAN BEING COULD DO THAT!


AND HOW DID THEY ACCEPT YOUR EXPLANATION FOR FINDING THE BODY?
I WAS TAKING A MIDNIGHT STROLL AND HEARD THE SCREAM. IT WAS PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD, I THINK.


IT'S A SHAME YOU HAD TO BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH A SHOCK.
I AM FEELING TENSE. I THINK I'LL FIX MYSELF A PICNIC LUNCH AND RELAX OUT IN THE WOODS

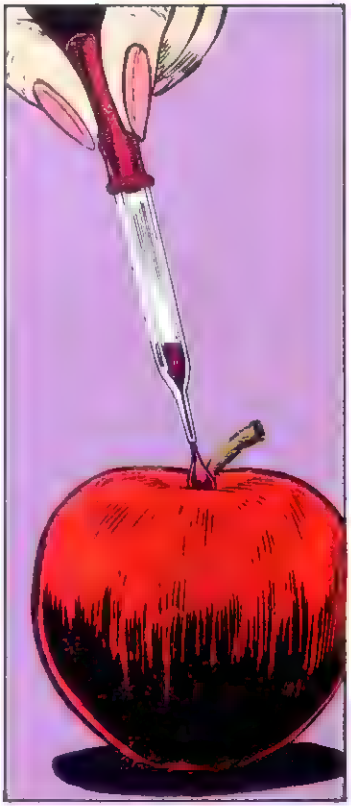

TUM DE DUM... EVERYTHING HERE FOR A NICE LITTLE VISIT TO DOCTOR QUEST'S HOUSE OF ENZYMES.
LOCKPICKS TO GET IN... AND CHLOROFORM IN CASE ANYBODY GETS ROUGH.

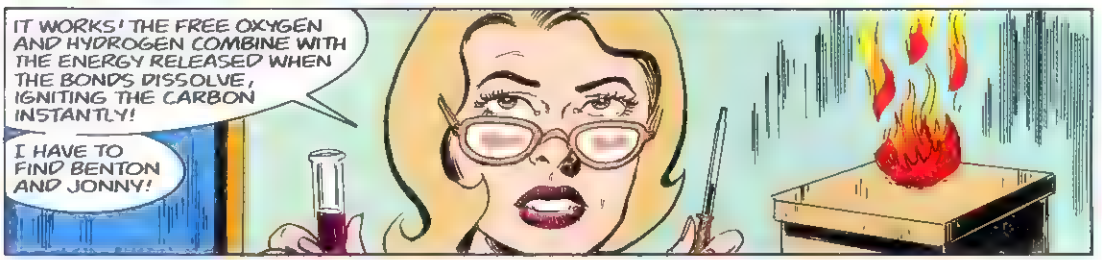

ONCE I HAVE THE FORMULA, I CAN EITHER SELL IT TO MY SPONSORS, OR SELL IT BACK TO QUEST.
IN EITHER CASE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN.

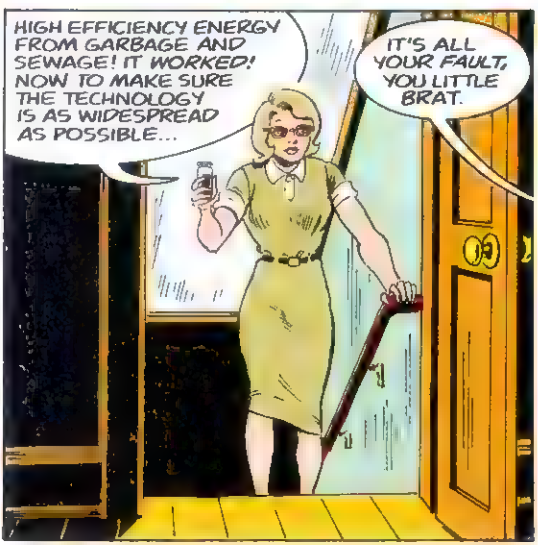
..LOSE...
THWACK!

AND, SOMEWHAT LATER.
STEADY, BOY!
DO YOU SMELL ANYTHING YET?
WE'D BETTER BE READY TO RUN.
SNIFF SNIFF
IT SURE IS GETTING DARK FAST
I CAN'T REALLY SEE.
YIII!
FINN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I FOLLOWED YOU. I FIGURED WHEN YOU DIDN'T TURN ME IN THAT I OWED YOU ONE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
PATCHES HAS BEEN ACTING FUNNY ALL DAY.
I THINK HE'S GOT THE PANTHER'S SCENT.
IF WE CAN TRACK HIM TO HIS LAIR, WE CAN BRING BACK HELP.
SOUNDS DECENT I'M IN!

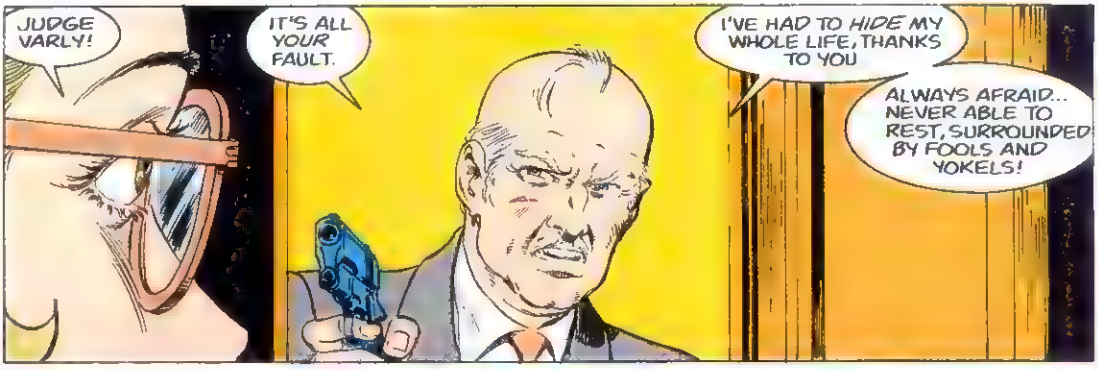
THIS STUFF IS SO HARD TO GET THROUGH
I CAN'T EVEN SEE PATCHES ANYMORE CAN YOU?
MAYBE HE'S JUST AHEAD! LET'S KEEP GOING STRAIGHT.
SOUNDS GOOD. I JUST HOPE WE DON'T RUN INTO THE...
...PANTHER!
IT'S HIM!
STOP HIM!
STOP HIM!
HE'S.. TICKLING ME!
HE'S FRIENDLY!
HE'S LIKE A BIG KITTEN.
HE'S PURRING. I DON'T GET IT.
YEAH. HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED POP.
PURR RRR
HE'S NOT DANGEROUS AT ALL.
NO, HE'S NOT
BUT I AM.

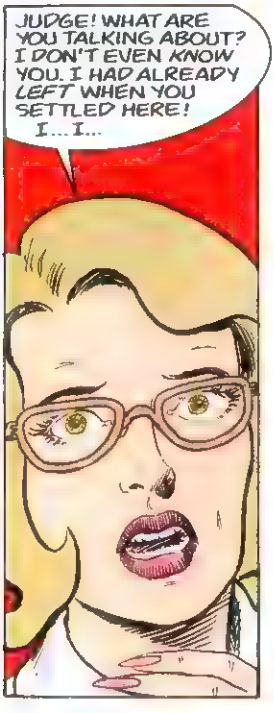


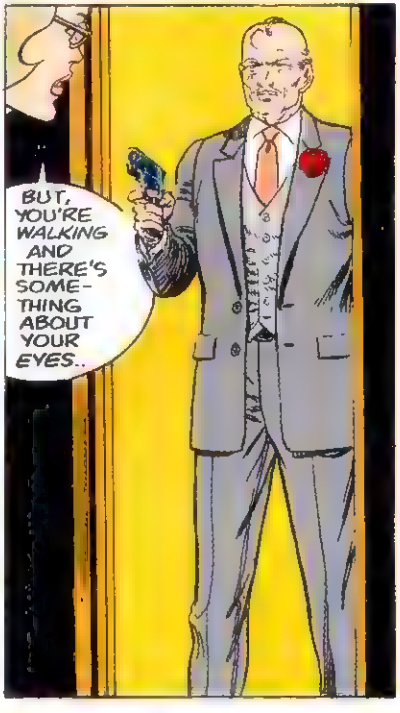

IT WORKS! THE FREE OXYGEN AND HYDROGEN COMBINE WITH THE ENERGY RELEASED WHEN THE BONDS DISSOLVE, IGNITING THE CARBON INSTANTLY!
I HAVE TO FIND BENTON AND JONNY!


HIGH EFFICIENCY ENERGY FROM GARBAGE AND SEWAGE! IT WORKED! NOW TO MAKE SURE THE TECHNOLOGY IS AS WIDESPREAD AS POSSIBLE...
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU LITTLE BRAT.

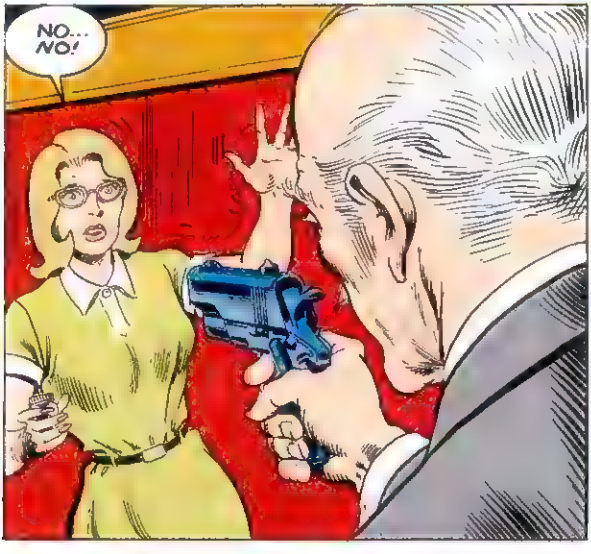
I HAD THEM ALL FOOLED BEFORE YOU CAME BACK.
YOU DID IT
YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING.

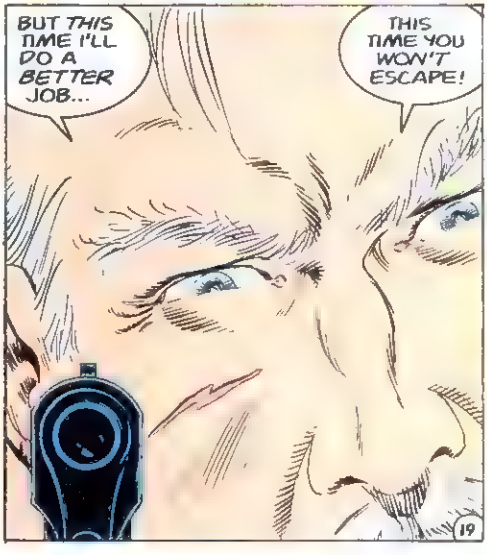

JUDGE VARLY!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
I'VE HAD TO HIDE MY WHOLE LIFE, THANKS TO YOU
ALWAYS AFRAID.. NEVER ABLE TO REST, SURROUNDED BY FOOLS AND YOKELS!


JUDGE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU. I HAD ALREADY LEFT WHEN YOU SETTLED HERE! I... I...

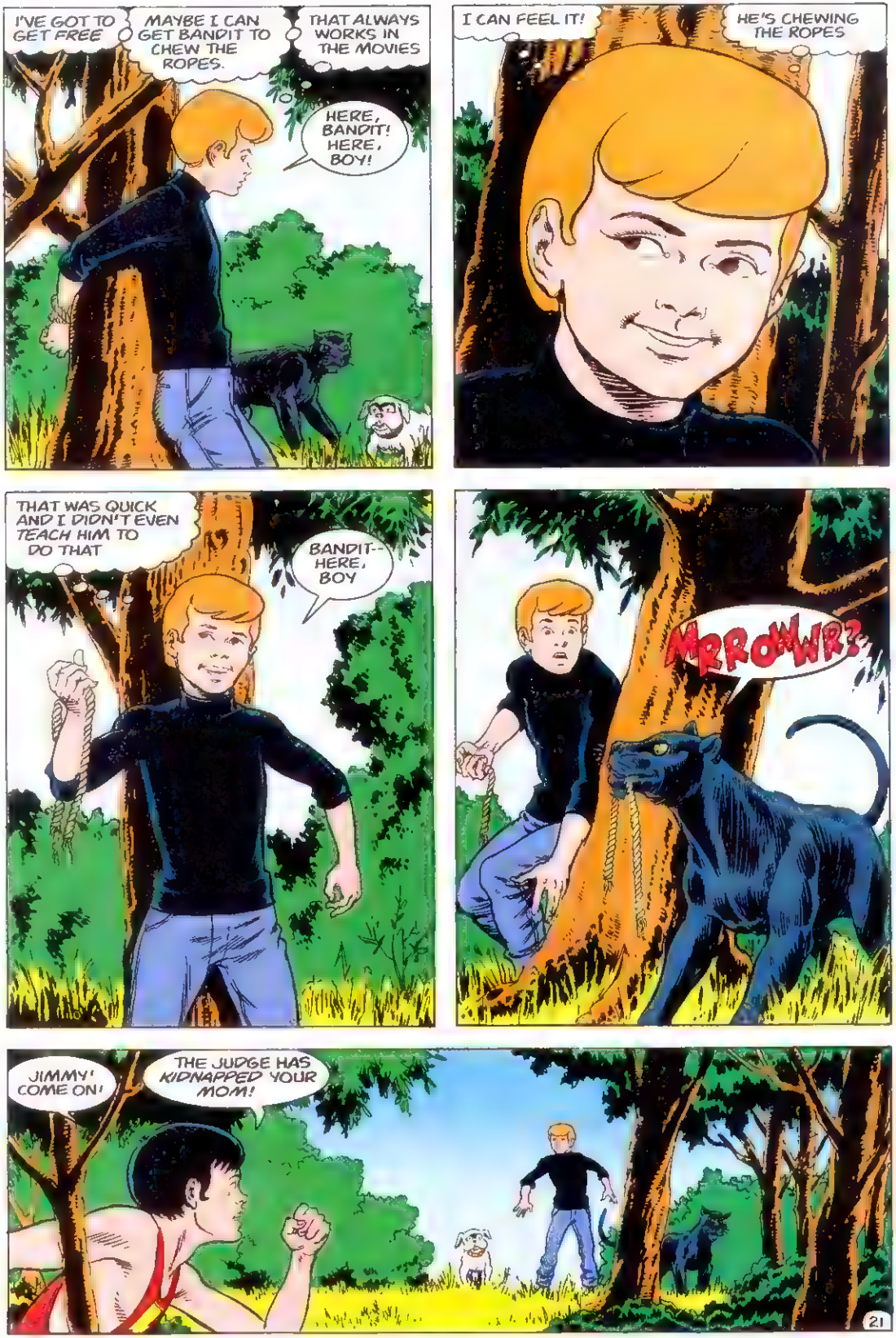

BUT, YOU'RE WALKING AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EYES..

OH, GOD!
I SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE YOU WERE DEAD THE FIRST TIME!


NO... NO!

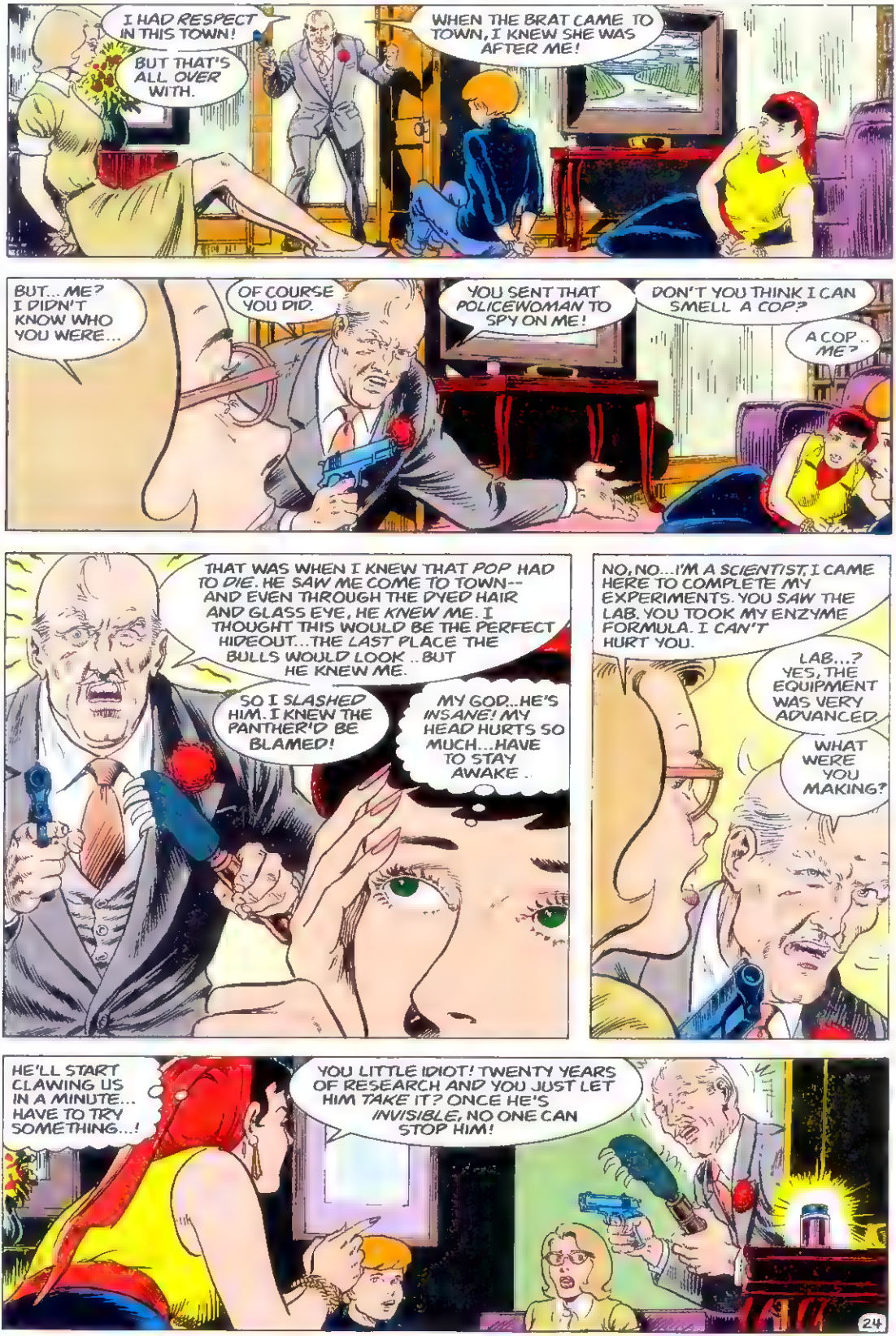

BUT THIS TIME I'LL DO A BETTER JOB...
THIS TIME YOU WON'T ESCAPE!

STARK!
YOU JUST KEEP BUTTING IN WHERE YOU DON'T BELONG, KID THAT'S MY PANTHER!
WHO'S THIS GUY?
HE WORKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, 'CEPT THE GOVERNMENT PRETENDS HE DOESN'T.
BUT IF THAT'S YOUR PANTHER, THEN YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO SCARE PROF COLLINS ALL ALONG. WHY?
I FIGURED IF SHE WERE SPOOKED ENOUGH, SHE'D COME TO US FOR PROTECTION. INSTEAD, SHE WENT TO YOUR DAD.
BAD MISTAKE.
ONCE I GET THROUGH WITH HER...
RUN, FINN!
GET HELP!
OOOFFF!
STUPID, KID REAL STUPID
YOUR PAL WON'T GET FAR
LET'S GET INTO TOWN
TIE UP THE KID AND LEAVE HIM HERE!
I HOPE I LOST THOSE GUYS.
IF I TAKE THIS SHORTCUT, I'LL COME OUT IN BACK OF THE JUDGE'S HOUSE.
HE'LL HELP US.
THAT'S THE JUDGE, BUT HE'S WALKING...
AND HE'S GOT A GUN!
SOMETHING'S AWFUL WRONG.
WHAT DO I DO NOW?

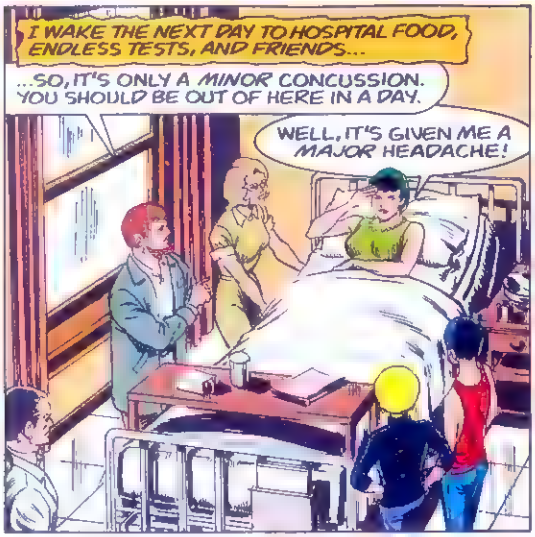

I'VE GOT TO GET FREE
MAYBE I CAN GET BANDIT TO CHEW THE ROPES.
THAT ALWAYS WORKS IN THE MOVIES
HERE, BANDIT! HERE, BOY!
I CAN FEEL IT!
HE'S CHEWING THE ROPES
THAT WAS QUICK AND I DIDN'T EVEN TEACH HIM TO DO THAT
BANDIT-- HERE, BOY
MRROWWR?
JIMMY! COME ON!
THE JUDGE HAS KIDNAPPED YOUR MOM!
21

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING. YOU GO AND TRY TO FIND MY DAD.
I'M GOING IN TO FIND HER
I DON'T THINK THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S HOME
MAYBE I SHOULD..
STEP RIGHT THIS WAY, MUG!
JOIN YOUR SO-CALLED MOTHER ON THE FLOOR, AND START COUNTING.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TEN MINUTES OF YOUR LIFE
22

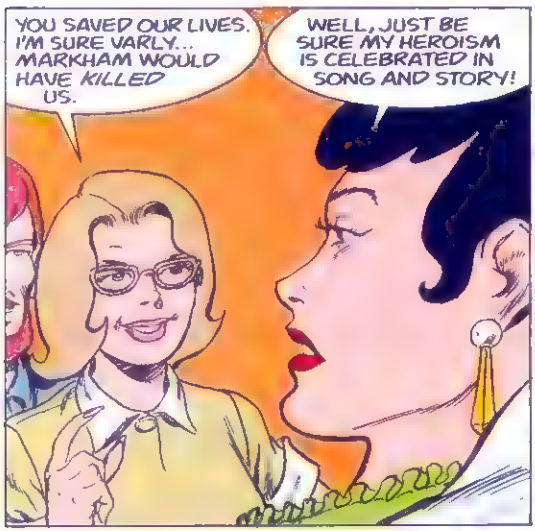
OHHH! FIVE HOURS I WORKED ON THAT SINK
THE LIFE OF A HANDYMAN IS NOT A HAPPY ONE.
HEY, QUEST!
NOW LISTEN, QUEST, BEFORE YOU GET YOUR NOSE OUT OF JOINT...
IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO CONFESS THAT YOU'RE BEHIND THE SO-CLEVER NEAR MISSES ON HELEN, I ALREADY KNOW.
YOU KNOW? BUT, HOW?
ONCE I STARTED REASONING IT OUT, IT WAS OBVIOUS. BESIDES, THE WHOLE OPERATION HAD YOUR TRADEMARK MIX OF SLEAZINESS AND STUPIDITY.
NEVER MIND THAT!
MR. SEEK, JIMMY WENT INTO THE JUDGE'S HOUSE, AND HE NEVER CAME OUT!
I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE REASON FOR THAT, AND IT SCARES THE DEVIL OUT OF ME
COME ON, STARK.
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN PUT THIS INTENSE ENERGY OF YOURS TO SOME GOOD PURPOSE.

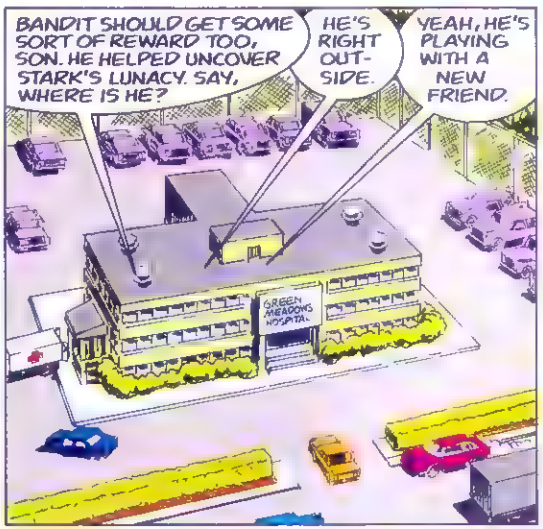

I HAD RESPECT IN THIS TOWN!
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER WITH.
WHEN THE BRAT CAME TO TOWN, I KNEW SHE WAS AFTER ME!
BUT... ME? I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE...
OF COURSE YOU DID.
YOU SENT THAT POLICEWOMAN TO SPY ON ME!
DON'T YOU THINK I CAN SMELL A COP?
A COP.. ME?
THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW THAT POP HAD TO DIE. HE SAW ME COME TO TOWN-- AND EVEN THROUGH THE DYED HAIR AND GLASS EYE, HE KNEW ME. I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT HIDEOUT...THE LAST PLACE THE BULLS WOULD LOOK..BUT HE KNEW ME.
SO I SLASHED HIM. I KNEW THE PANTHER'D BE BLAMED!
MY GOD..HE'S INSANE! MY HEAD HURTS SO MUCH...HAVE TO STAY AWAKE..
NO, NO...I'M A SCIENTIST, I CAME HERE TO COMPLETE MY EXPERIMENTS. YOU SAW THE LAB. YOU TOOK MY ENZYME FORMULA. I CAN'T HURT YOU.
LAB...? YES, THE EQUIPMENT WAS VERY ADVANCED.
WHAT WERE YOU MAKING?
HE'LL START CLAWING US IN A MINUTE... HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING...!
YOU LITTLE IDIOT! TWENTY YEARS OF RESEARCH AND YOU JUST LET HIM TAKE IT? ONCE HE'S INVISIBLE, NO ONE CAN STOP HIM!

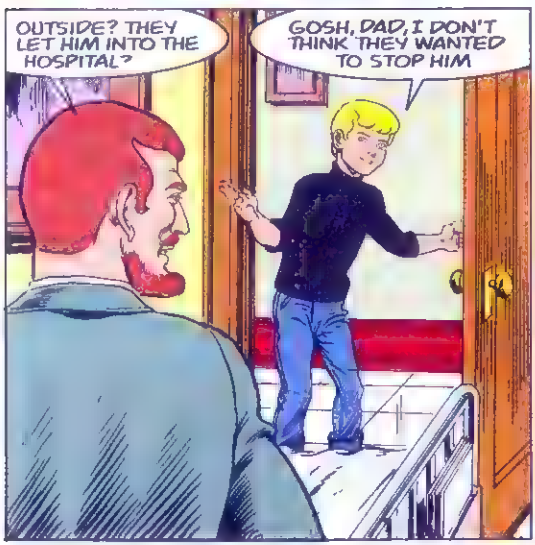
JONNY! JONNY! ARE YOU IN THERE?
YOU'RE TOO LATE, COPPER...
VARLY, IF YOU'VE HURT MY SON...!
BAM
.. I CAN BE INVISIBLE!
NO! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE, JADE! HE CAN'T DRINK THAT! IT'S POISON!
ER...THAT'S RIGHT, VARLY! IT'S POISON! YOU...UM ..CAN'T DRINK IT!
LIARS!
THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME NOW! I'M SAFE!
FRROOOOSSHHH!
JONNY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MY GOD! WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
LOOK! THE FLOOR'S MELTING!
THE ENEMY HAS PERISHED! I FEEL STRANGELY LIGHTHEADED. THE ROOM GROWS DARK.
IT'S GOLD. MOLTEN GOLD. NO WONDER THEY NEVER FOUND HIS MONEY. HE MADE HIS FLOORBOARDS OUT OF GOLD!
DAD!
JADE'S FAINTED!
25


I WAKE THE NEXT DAY TO HOSPITAL FOOD, ENDLESS TESTS, AND FRIENDS...
...SO, IT'S ONLY A MINOR CONCUSSION. YOU SHOULD BE OUT OF HERE IN A DAY.
WELL, IT'S GIVEN ME A MAJOR HEADACHE!

AND THERE WAS STILL A TEN PERCENT REWARD FOR THE MONEY THAT SQUINT MARKHAM TOOK. DAD TOLD THEM THAT YOU FOUND IT.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL A HAPPY ENDING!

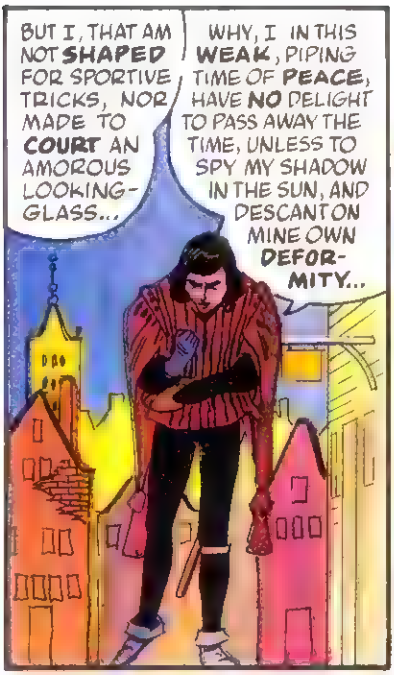

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. I'M SURE VARLY... MARKHAM WOULD HAVE KILLED US.
WELL, JUST BE SURE MY HEROISM IS CELEBRATED IN SONG AND STORY!


BANDIT SHOULD GET SOME SORT OF REWARD TOO, SON. HE HELPED UNCOVER STARK'S LUNACY. SAY, WHERE IS HE?
HE'S RIGHT OUT-SIDE.
YEAH, HE'S PLAYING WITH A NEW FRIEND.
GREEN MEADOWS HOSPITAL

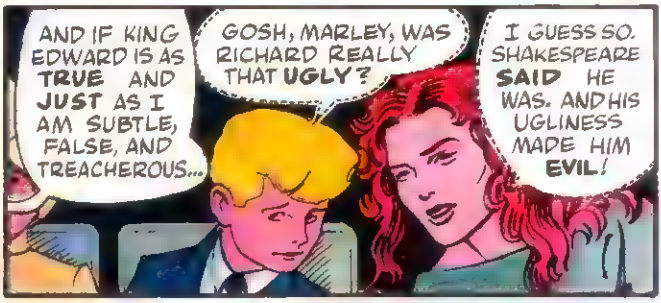

OUTSIDE? THEY LET HIM INTO THE HOSPITAL?
GOSH, DAD, I DON'T THINK THEY WANTED TO STOP HIM

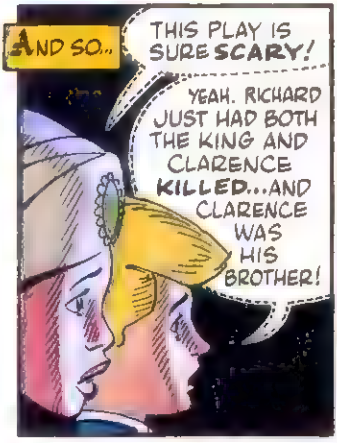
HA! HA! I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, SON. I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
THE END

LOOK, JONNY... HE SURE IS EVIL-LOOKING.
BOY, I'LL SAY!
NOW IS THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT MADE GLORIOUS SUMMER BY THIS SON OF YORK...
...AND ALL THE CLOUDS THAT LOW'R'D UPON OUR HOUSE IN THE DEEP BOSOM OF THE OCEAN BURIED.
Winter of Discontent
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS
·Writer·
MARC HEMPEL
·Penciller/Letterer·
MARK WHEATLEY
·Inker/Colorist·
KATHRYN MAYER
·Letterer/Colorist·
DIANA SCHUTZ
·Editor·

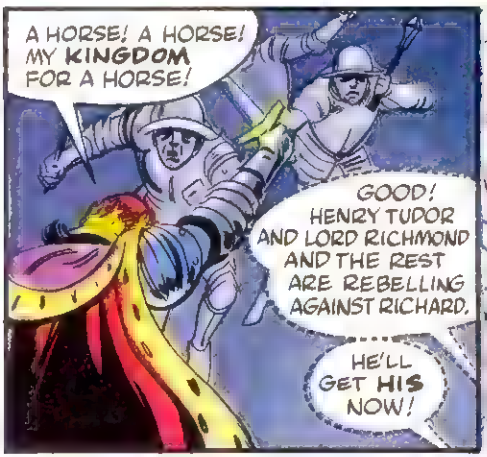

BUT I, THAT AM NOT SHAPED FOR SPORTIVE TRICKS, NOR MADE TO COURT AN AMOROUS LOOKING-GLASS...
WHY, I IN THIS WEAK, PIPING TIME OF PEACE, HAVE NO DELIGHT TO PASS AWAY THE TIME, UNLESS TO SPY MY SHADOW IN THE SUN, AND DESCANT ON MINE OWN DEFORMITY...

THEREFORE, SINCE I CANNOT PROVE A LOVER... I AM DETERMINED TO PROVE A VILLAIN...
TO SET MY BROTHER CLARENCE AND THE KING IN DEADLY HATE, THE ONE AGAINST THE OTHER!


AND IF KING EDWARD IS AS TRUE AND JUST AS I AM SUBTLE, FALSE, AND TREACHEROUS...
GOSH, MARLEY, WAS RICHARD REALLY THAT UGLY?
I GUESS SO. SHAKESPEARE SAID HE WAS. AND HIS UGLINESS MADE HIM EVIL!


AND SO..
THIS PLAY IS SURE SCARY!
YEAH. RICHARD JUST HAD BOTH THE KING AND CLARENCE KILLED...AND CLARENCE WAS HIS BROTHER!

NOW HE'S KILLED EVERYONE WHO STOOD IN HIS WAY... LORD HASTINGS, LORD RIVERS...EVEN POOR MISTRESS SHORE!
HE HAD HER KILLED AS A WITCH! NOBODY CAN STOP HIM!


A HORSE! A HORSE! MY KINGDOM FOR A HORSE!
GOOD! HENRY TUDOR AND LORD RICHMOND AND THE REST ARE REBELLING AGAINST RICHARD.
HE'LL GET HIS NOW!

HURRAH! HURRAH! BRAVO!
HURRAY!

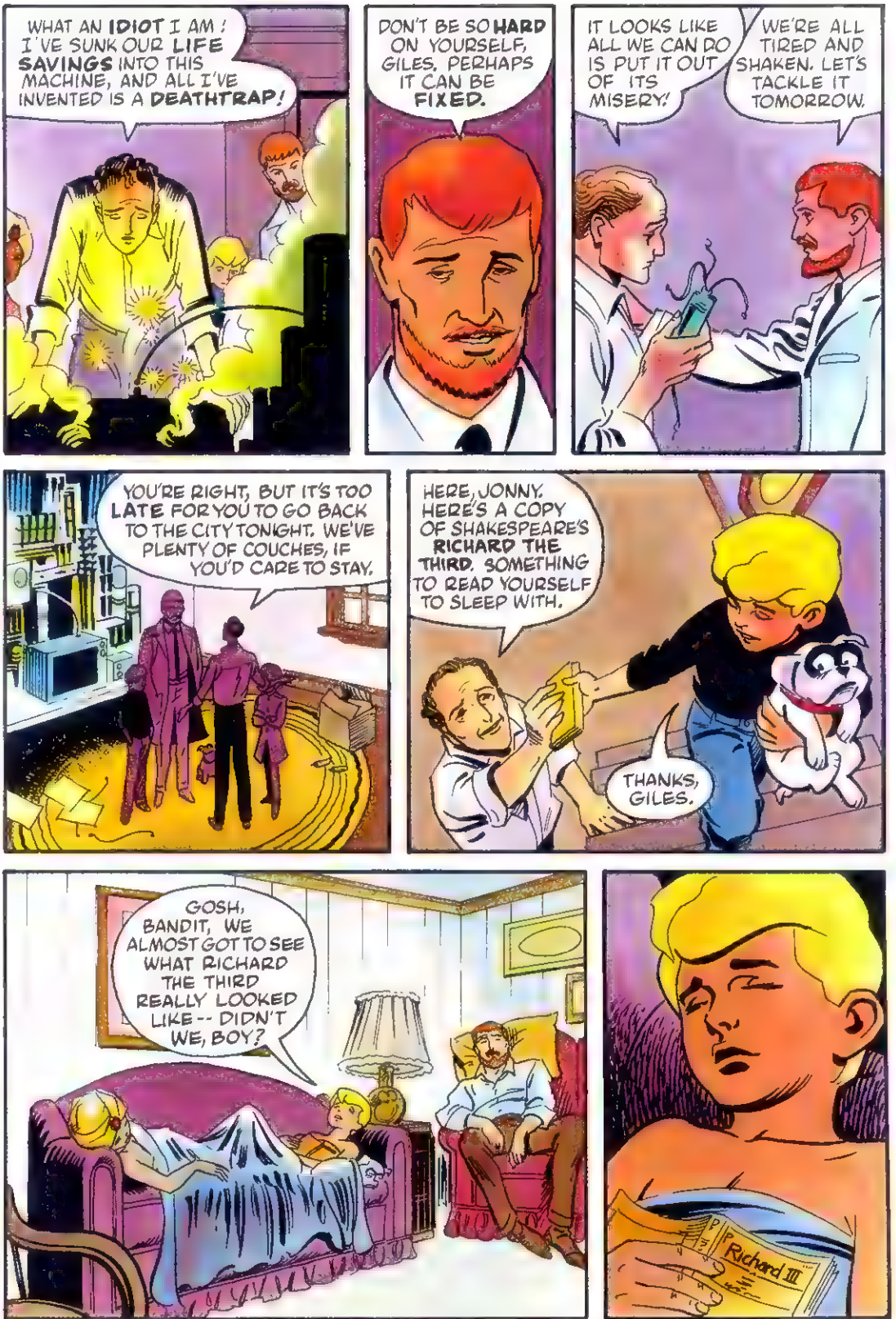
YOU KNOW THE PART I LIKED BEST, DAD? IT WAS WHEN HENRY TUDOR STOOD UP TO RICHARD AND BEAT HIM FAIR AND SQUARE!
TYRANTS DON'T PROSPER IN THE LONG RUN, JONNY. PEOPLE GET FED UP AND THROW THEM OUT.
UM... EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M MARLEY FROST AND WE'RE HERE TO SEE...
MARLEY!
HEAVENS! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD GIRL!
IT'S BEEN AGES, GILES. NOT SINCE YOU PLAYED DISRAELI IN THAT PBS MYSTERY THING WE FILMED OVER HERE.
I WAS A MERE ORNAMENT TO YOUR BRILLIANCE AND LOVELINESS, MY DEAR.
SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL!
THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I TOLD YOU ABOUT... RACE BANNON, DOCTOR BENTON QUEST, HADJI, JONNY...
...THIS IS GILES MONTROSE.
JOLLY GLAD TO MEET YOU, CHAPS! SIT... SIT! LET ME TURN MYSELF BACK INTO SOME SEMBLANCE OF A HUMAN BEING.
BANDIT! STOP THAT!

THAT WAS SOME PERFORMANCE YOU GAVE OUT THERE. IT GAVE ME GOOSEBUMPS!
YES, OLD RICHARD THREE'LL DO THAT. I LOVE DOING HIM. HE'S SO LUSCIOUSLY EVIL.
I'D SAY HE'S THE MOST EVIL CHARACTER SHAKESPEARE EVER WROTE. EVEN MORE SO THAN IAGO!
NO SOUL-SEARCHING FOR THIS LAD. "GET OUT OF MY WAY OR OFF WITH YOUR HEAD," THAT'S HIS MOTTO!
'COURSE, WILL SHAKESPEARE DREW HIM FROM LIFE, DIDN'T HE? WICKEDEST KING THIS SAD OLD ISLAND'S EVER SEEN--AND WE'VE SEEN OUR SHARE.
YES, THE 1480'S MUST HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTING TIME TO BE ALIVE.
AHHH, THANK YOU, LAD. BLOODY GLAD TO GET THAT HARNESS OFF!
DON'T KNOW HOW ACTORS SURVIVED THIS PART BEFORE THE INVENTION OF FOAM RUBBER!
ARE YOU AN ACTOR ALL THE TIME, MR. MONTROSE?
IT'S GILES, LAD, AND LORD, NO! I'M ACTUALLY AN ENGINEER. I STARTED ACTING AFTER MY COMPANY CLOSED DOWN.
NOT THAT ACTING'S THAT REGULAR, EITHER. IN A WAY, THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOUR DAD TO COME HERE.

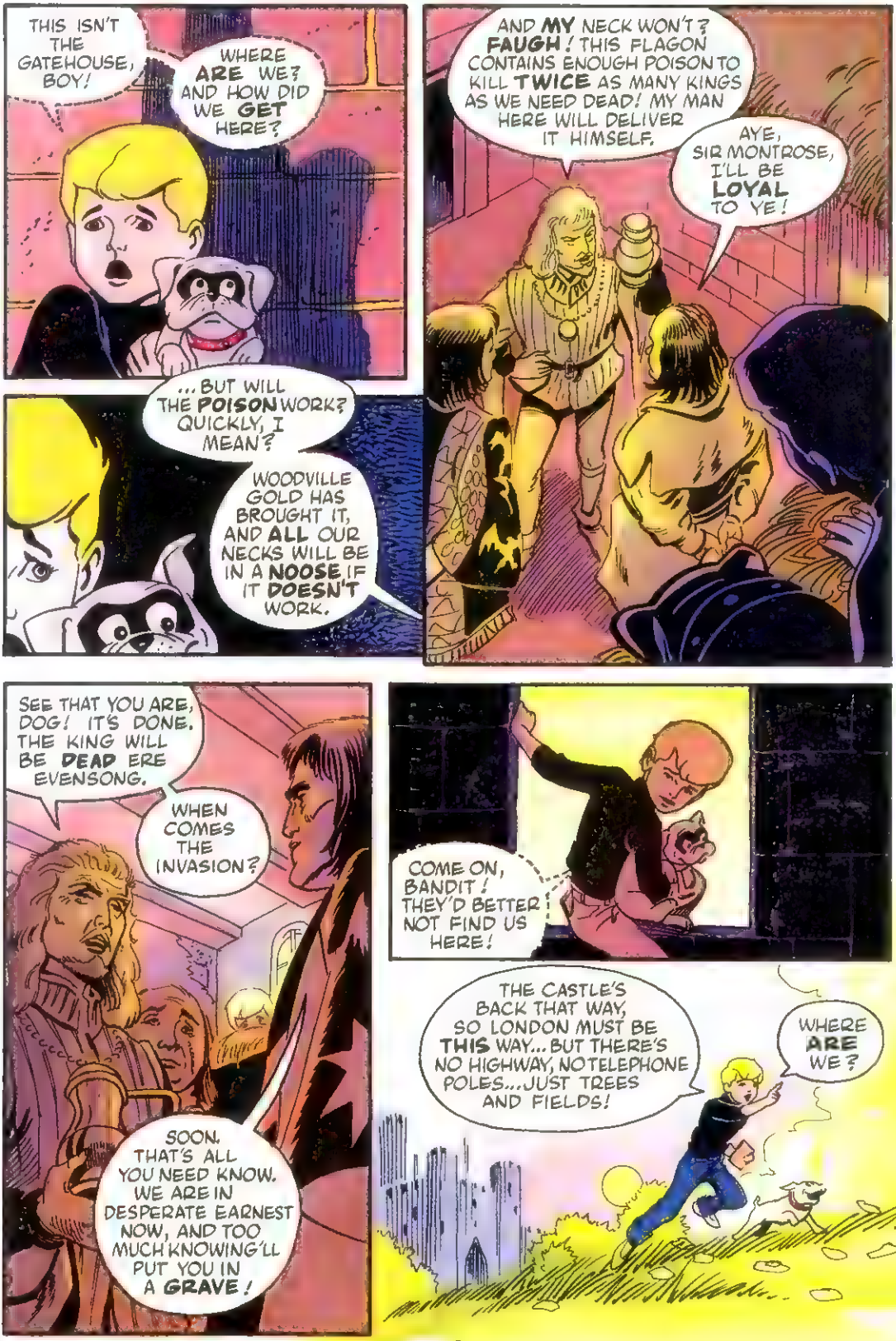
I'M JUST SORRY I HAVE TO DRAG YOU CLEAR OUT TO THE STICKS LIKE THIS, DOCTOR QUEST.
DON'T WORRY, GILES. IF THIS INVENTION OF YOURS IS **HALF** AS EXCITING AS I **THINK** IT IS, I'D GLADLY DRIVE AROUND THE **WORLD** TO SEE IT.
WHAT **I** DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY RACE AND MARLEY WANTED TO GO TO SOME STUPID **DANCE**, INSTEAD OF SEEING A REAL LIVE **TIME MACHINE**!
THERE CERTAINLY IS NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES, THOUGH WHAT I'VE WHIPPED UP IS NOT PRECISELY A...
WOW! LOOK AT THAT PLACE! IS THAT YOURS?
AFRAID NOT. WE LIVE IN THE GATEHOUSE.
THERE IS A FAMILY TRADITION THAT WE **OWN** ALL THESE LANDS, BUT NO **DOCUMENTATION** WAS EVER FOUND.
THE FAMILY'S LIVED HERE AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER. BUT WE'LL **LOSE** THIS PLACE TOO, UNLESS THE LAST OF THE MONTROSES CAN GENERATE A BIT OF **INCOME**!

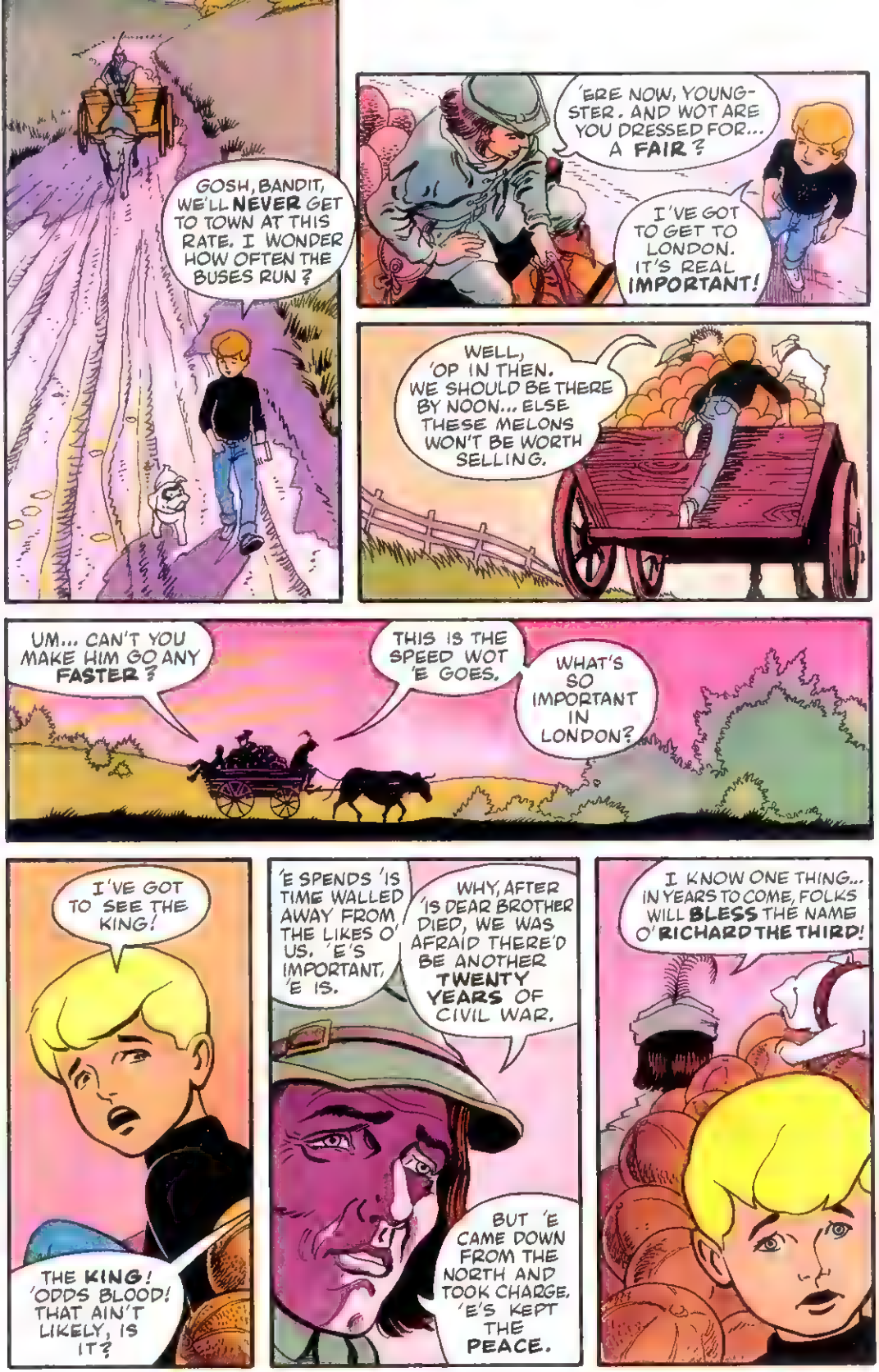
THAT'S THE DEAR OLD ANCESTOR, THOMAS MONTROSE.
THEY SAY HE HELPED OVERTHROW RICHARD THE MONSTER-- BUT IF SO, WE'VE PRECIOUS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR IT!
AND THIS IS MY SISTER, MARY...
GLAD TO MEET YOU ALL.
SORRY, GILES. I'VE GOT TO RUN. THE PICKLES DON'T GET MADE WITHOUT ME!
SHE SEEMS VERY NICE.
I WISH SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK IN THAT PLACE, BUT WE CAN DO WITH THE MONEY.
IF ONLY ONE OF MY INVENTIONS WOULD WORK... OH, WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST MONTROSE FOLLY!
I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY YOUR PAPER ON TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT.
EVERY SCIENTIST IN THE WORLD SEEMS TO BE WORKING ON TIME TRAVEL, BUT THEY ALL STUMBLE OVER THE SAME PROBLEMS.
WELL, THIS ISN'T A TIME MACHINE, REALLY. IT'S A WINDOW ON THE PAST.
YOU SEE, WITH THE LARGE DISH ANTENNA OUTSIDE, I'M ABLE TO RECAPTURE LIGHT WAVES THAT LEFT THE EARTH EONS AGO...
AHH, THE MONITOR'S WARMING UP.
OMMMMMM

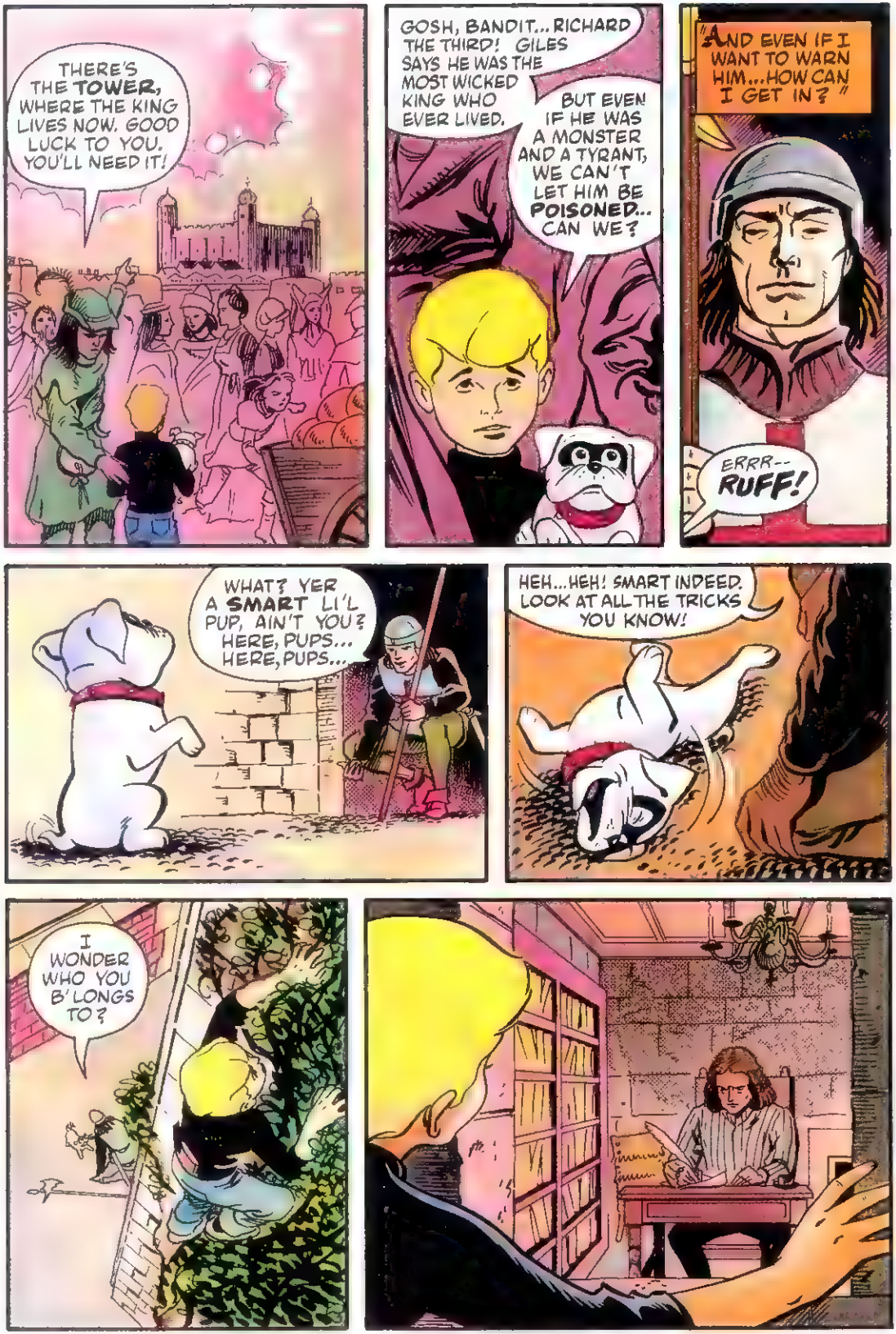
YOU SEE, I'VE SET THE MACHINE FOR 1811, AND THOSE ARE SOLDIERS OF NAPOLEON'S ARMY.
THERE'S STILL A LOT OF INTERFERENCE, BUT ONCE THESE SIGNALS ARE COMPUTER-ENHANCED, THERE'LL BE NO DOUBT.
YES, I CAN SEE THEM NOW. GET CLOSER, JONNY.
LET'S TRY AND LOOK IN ON OLD THOMAS MONTROSE. MAYBE WE CAN SEE WHERE HE HID OUR LAND GRANT!
LET'S SEE, WE'LL MAKE IT 1485... IN THE FALL.
AND WE'LL NEED A BIT MORE POWER, LIKE SO...
MY LORD... WHAT...?!
FRRICCSS-KRASS
SHH!
JONNY!
SON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I... I GUESS SO.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF YOU LADS HAVE BEEN INJURED.


WHAT AN IDIOT I AM! I'VE SUNK OUR LIFE SAVINGS INTO THIS MACHINE, AND ALL I'VE INVENTED IS A DEATHTRAP!
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, GILES. PERHAPS IT CAN BE FIXED.
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL WE CAN DO IS PUT IT OUT OF ITS MISERY!
WE'RE ALL TIRED AND SHAKEN. LET'S TACKLE IT TOMORROW.
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO THE CITY TONIGHT. WE'VE PLENTY OF COUCHES, IF YOU'D CARE TO STAY.
HERE, JONNY. HERE'S A COPY OF SHAKESPEARE'S RICHARD THE THIRD. SOMETHING TO READ YOURSELF TO SLEEP WITH.
THANKS, GILES.
GOSH, BANDIT, WE ALMOST GOT TO SEE WHAT RICHARD THE THIRD REALLY LOOKED LIKE -- DIDN'T WE, BOY?
Richard III

SKRAWKATOOO!
SKRAWKATOOO!
YAWWWWNNN! BOY, IT'S MORNING ALREADY. THAT WAS SOME NIGHT WE HAD LAST NIGHT, HUH, BANDIT?
BANDIT?


THIS ISN'T THE GATEHOUSE, BOY!
WHERE ARE WE? AND HOW DID WE GET HERE?
AND MY NECK WON'T? FAUGH! THIS FLAGON CONTAINS ENOUGH POISON TO KILL TWICE AS MANY KINGS AS WE NEED DEAD! MY MAN HERE WILL DELIVER IT HIMSELF.
AYE, SIR MONTROSE, I'LL BE LOYAL TO YE!
...BUT WILL THE POISON WORK? QUICKLY, I MEAN?
WOODVILLE GOLD HAS BROUGHT IT, AND ALL OUR NECKS WILL BE IN A NOOSE IF IT DOESN'T WORK.
SEE THAT YOU ARE, DOG! IT'S DONE. THE KING WILL BE DEAD ERE EVENSONG.
WHEN COMES THE INVASION?
SOON. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED KNOW. WE ARE IN DESPERATE EARNEST NOW, AND TOO MUCH KNOWING'LL PUT YOU IN A GRAVE!
COME ON, BANDIT! THEY'D BETTER NOT FIND US HERE!
THE CASTLE'S BACK THAT WAY, SO LONDON MUST BE THIS WAY... BUT THERE'S NO HIGHWAY, NO TELEPHONE POLES... JUST TREES AND FIELDS!
WHERE ARE WE?

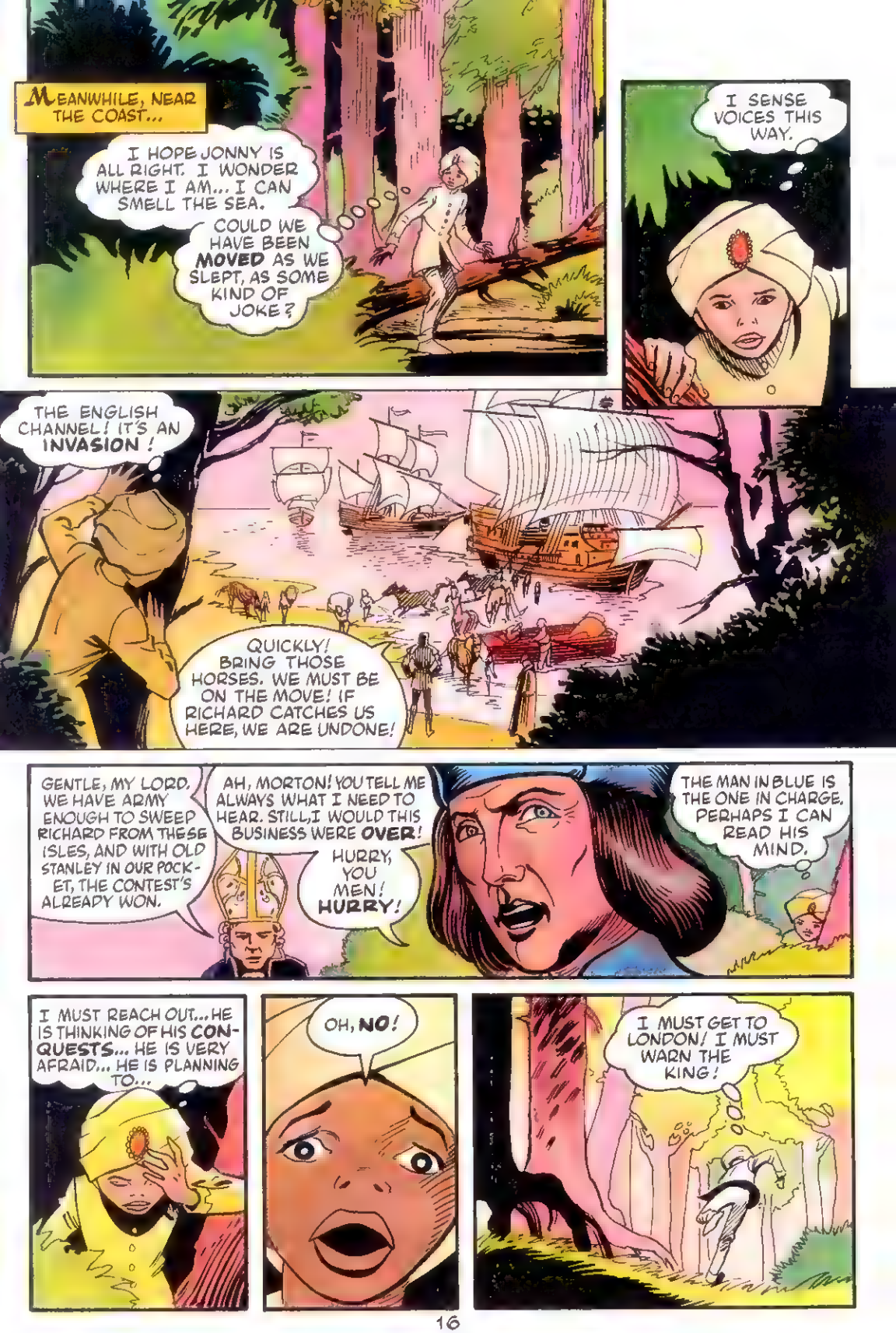

GOSH, BANDIT, WE'LL NEVER GET TO TOWN AT THIS RATE. I WONDER HOW OFTEN THE BUSES RUN?
'ERE NOW, YOUNGSTER. AND WOT ARE YOU DRESSED FOR... A FAIR?
I'VE GOT TO GET TO LONDON. IT'S REAL IMPORTANT!
WELL, 'OP IN THEN. WE SHOULD BE THERE BY NOON... ELSE THESE MELONS WON'T BE WORTH SELLING.
UM... CAN'T YOU MAKE HIM GO ANY FASTER?
THIS IS THE SPEED WOT 'E GOES.
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT IN LONDON?
I'VE GOT TO SEE THE KING!
THE KING! 'ODDS BLOOD! THAT AIN'T LIKELY, IS IT?
'E SPENDS 'IS TIME WALLED AWAY FROM THE LIKES O' US. 'E'S IMPORTANT, 'E IS.
WHY, AFTER 'IS DEAR BROTHER DIED, WE WAS AFRAID THERE'D BE ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS OF CIVIL WAR.
BUT 'E CAME DOWN FROM THE NORTH AND TOOK CHARGE. 'E'S KEPT THE PEACE.
I KNOW ONE THING... IN YEARS TO COME, FOLKS WILL BLESS THE NAME O' RICHARD THE THIRD!

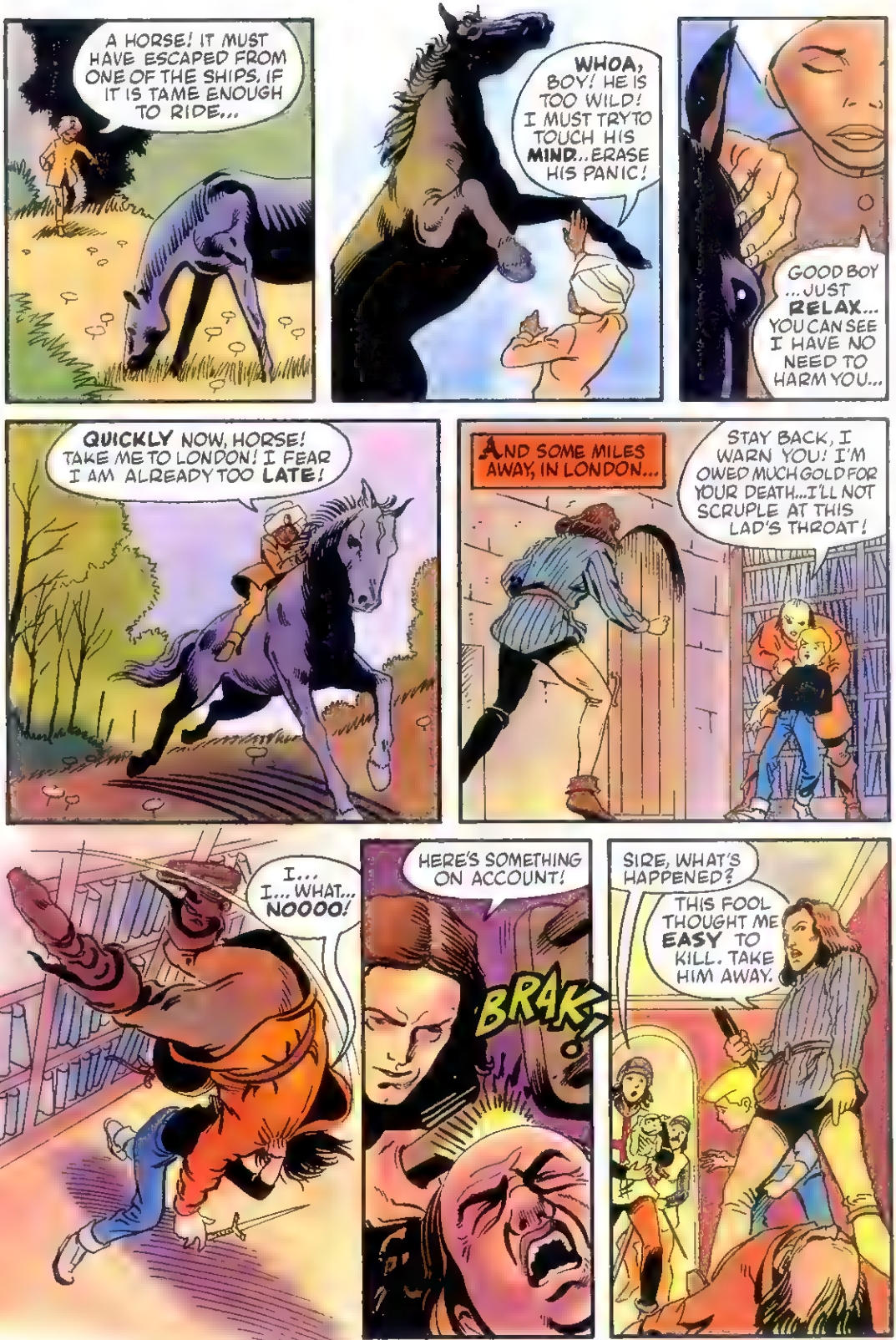

THERE'S THE TOWER, WHERE THE KING LIVES NOW. GOOD LUCK TO YOU. YOU'LL NEED IT!
GOSH, BANDIT... RICHARD THE THIRD! GILES SAYS HE WAS THE MOST WICKED KING WHO EVER LIVED.
BUT EVEN IF HE WAS A MONSTER AND A TYRANT, WE CAN'T LET HIM BE POISONED... CAN WE?
"AND EVEN IF I WANT TO WARN HIM... HOW CAN I GET IN?"
ERRR-- RUFF!
WHAT? YER A SMART LI'L PUP, AIN'T YOU? HERE, PUPS... HERE, PUPS...
HEH... HEH! SMART INDEED. LOOK AT ALL THE TRICKS YOU KNOW!
I WONDER WHO YOU B'LONGS TO?

HE LOOKS LIKE A NICE GUY. HE'S PROBABLY THE KING'S SECRETARY. I'VE GOT TO HAVE HELP, IF I'M GOING TO FIND THE KING IN TIME.
UM... EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT I NEED TO FIND...
WHAT?! WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I CLIMBED UP... BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
LOOK, I KNOW I CAN'T PROVE THIS, BUT THE KING'S ABOUT TO BE POISONED. IT'S REALLY TRUE!
ER... YOU ARE LOYAL TO THE KING, AREN'T YOU?
WHY, I FEEL NAUGHT BUT LOYALTY AND AFFECTION FOR THE KING!
THEN, GET UP! DO SOMETHING! THEY COULD BE GIVING THE KING THAT POISON RIGHT NOW!
THE GUY WITH THE WINE CUP IS SHORT AND DARK, WITH A SCAR ON ONE CHEEK AND HE'S WEARING...
...YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS DOWN! WHAT KIND OF A SECRETARY ARE YOU? WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE KING!
WHY, BLESS YOU, LAD... I AM THE KING! RICHARD PLANTAGENET, AT YOUR SERVICE.

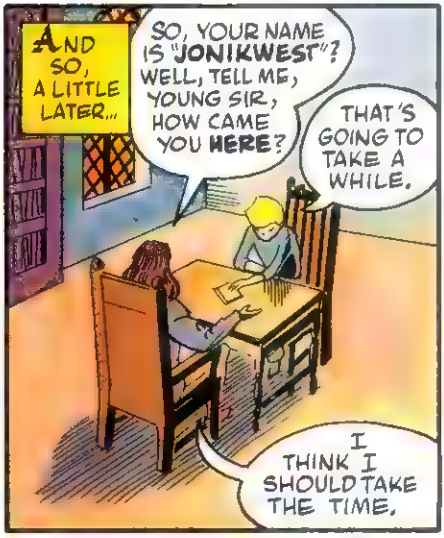
BUT I AM PERFECTLY **ALIVE**, AS YOU SEE, AND THERE IS NO POISONED GOBLET.
BUT... I WAS SURE...
PERHAPS YOU MIS-HEARD, OR PERHAPS THEIR NERVE FAILED.
STAY, AT ANY RATE, AND BE A PLAYMATE TO MY NEPHEWS. YOU'RE OF AN AGE WITH THEM.
YOUR NEPHEWS? THE TWO PRINCES? BUT I THOUGHT YOU...THAT IS, I HEARD THAT...
YOU'D HEARD I'D DONE AWAY WITH THEM, THAT OLD RUMOR! DOUBTLESS SPREAD BY **DEAR** BISHOP MORTON ON HIS RUN TO FRANCE!
WHO'S BISHOP MORTON?
NO FRIEND OF THE CHURCH AND NO FRIEND OF **MINE**, THAT'S CERTAIN.
EVEN NOW HE'S IN FRANCE WITH HENRY TUDOR, TRYING TO RAISE AN ARMY THAT WILL WIN MY THRONE FOR HENRY.
I'D HOPED THAT ENDING THE WAR WITH THE SCOTS WOULD BRING **PEACE** IN MY LIFETIME, BUT I WAS **WRONG**. I'VE SENT A DOZEN LETTERS TO THE REGENT OF FRANCE...
LISTEN: "MADAME, THIS RECKLESS INVASION OF YOURS WILL COME TO NO GOOD END. I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER OUR OFFERS OF FRIENDSHIP, RATHER THAN THE COUNSEL OF THOSE WHO MEAN YOU ILL..."
BUT, I RECEIVE NO REPLY.
AND, AS YET, THERE'S BEEN NO...
Y'R PARDON, SIRE. BUT THE COOK THOUGHT YOU COULD DO WITH LIGHT LUNCH.

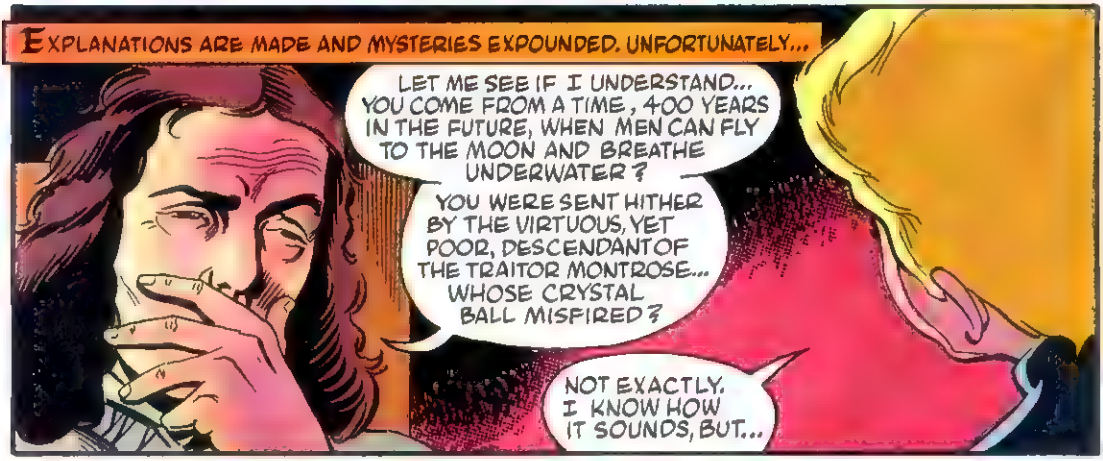
A LUNCH? I AM A BIT HUNGRY. BREAD AND CHEESE...HOW THOUGHTFUL. AND A FLAGON OF WINE. YES, BY ALL MEANS POUR ME A COOLING PORTION OF WINE...
... AND HAVE ONE YOURSELF!
ME? DRINK? WHY... I ... UM... THAT IS...I DON'T REALLY...DRINK... ER...WINE...
OH, COME. A TASTE WON'T HURT YOU--WILL IT, FRIEND?
TASTE STEEL, MILKSOP!
GET BACK, OR I DO THE WHELP NOW!


MEANWHILE, NEAR THE COAST...
I HOPE JONNY IS ALL RIGHT. I WONDER WHERE I AM... I CAN SMELL THE SEA.
COULD WE HAVE BEEN MOVED AS WE SLEPT, AS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
I SENSE VOICES THIS WAY.
THE ENGLISH CHANNEL! IT'S AN INVASION!
QUICKLY! BRING THOSE HORSES. WE MUST BE ON THE MOVE! IF RICHARD CATCHES US HERE, WE ARE UNDONE!
GENTLE, MY LORD. WE HAVE ARMY ENOUGH TO SWEEP RICHARD FROM THESE ISLES, AND WITH OLD STANLEY IN OUR POCKET, THE CONTEST'S ALREADY WON.
AH, MORTON! YOU TELL ME ALWAYS WHAT I NEED TO HEAR. STILL, I WOULD THIS BUSINESS WERE OVER!
HURRY, YOU MEN! HURRY!
THE MAN IN BLUE IS THE ONE IN CHARGE. PERHAPS I CAN READ HIS MIND.
I MUST REACH OUT... HE IS THINKING OF HIS CONQUESTS... HE IS VERY AFRAID... HE IS PLANNING TO...
OH, NO!
I MUST GET TO LONDON! I MUST WARN THE KING!


A HORSE! IT MUST HAVE ESCAPED FROM ONE OF THE SHIPS. IF IT IS TAME ENOUGH TO RIDE...
WHOA, BOY! HE IS TOO WILD! I MUST TRY TO TOUCH HIS MIND...ERASE HIS PANIC!
GOOD BOY ...JUST RELAX... YOU CAN SEE I HAVE NO NEED TO HARM YOU...
QUICKLY NOW, HORSE! TAKE ME TO LONDON! I FEAR I AM ALREADY TOO LATE!
AND SOME MILES AWAY, IN LONDON...
STAY BACK, I WARN YOU! I'M OWED MUCH GOLD FOR YOUR DEATH...I'LL NOT SCRUPLE AT THIS LAD'S THROAT!
I... I... WHAT... NOOOO!
HERE'S SOMETHING ON ACCOUNT!
BRAK!
SIRE, WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THIS FOOL THOUGHT ME EASY TO KILL. TAKE HIM AWAY.

PRISON'S TOO GOOD F'R HIS LIKE, SIRE. LET ME LOP OFF HIS HEAD!
WE ARE NOT SAVAGES IN ENGLAND--NOT YET. HE'LL STAND TRIAL.
YOU'RE TOO GENTLE ON HIM, SIRE. YOU'VE PARDONED MANY ENEMIES ALREADY!


AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...
SO, YOUR NAME IS "JONIKWEST"? WELL, TELL ME, YOUNG SIR, HOW CAME YOU HERE?
THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
I THINK I SHOULD TAKE THE TIME.

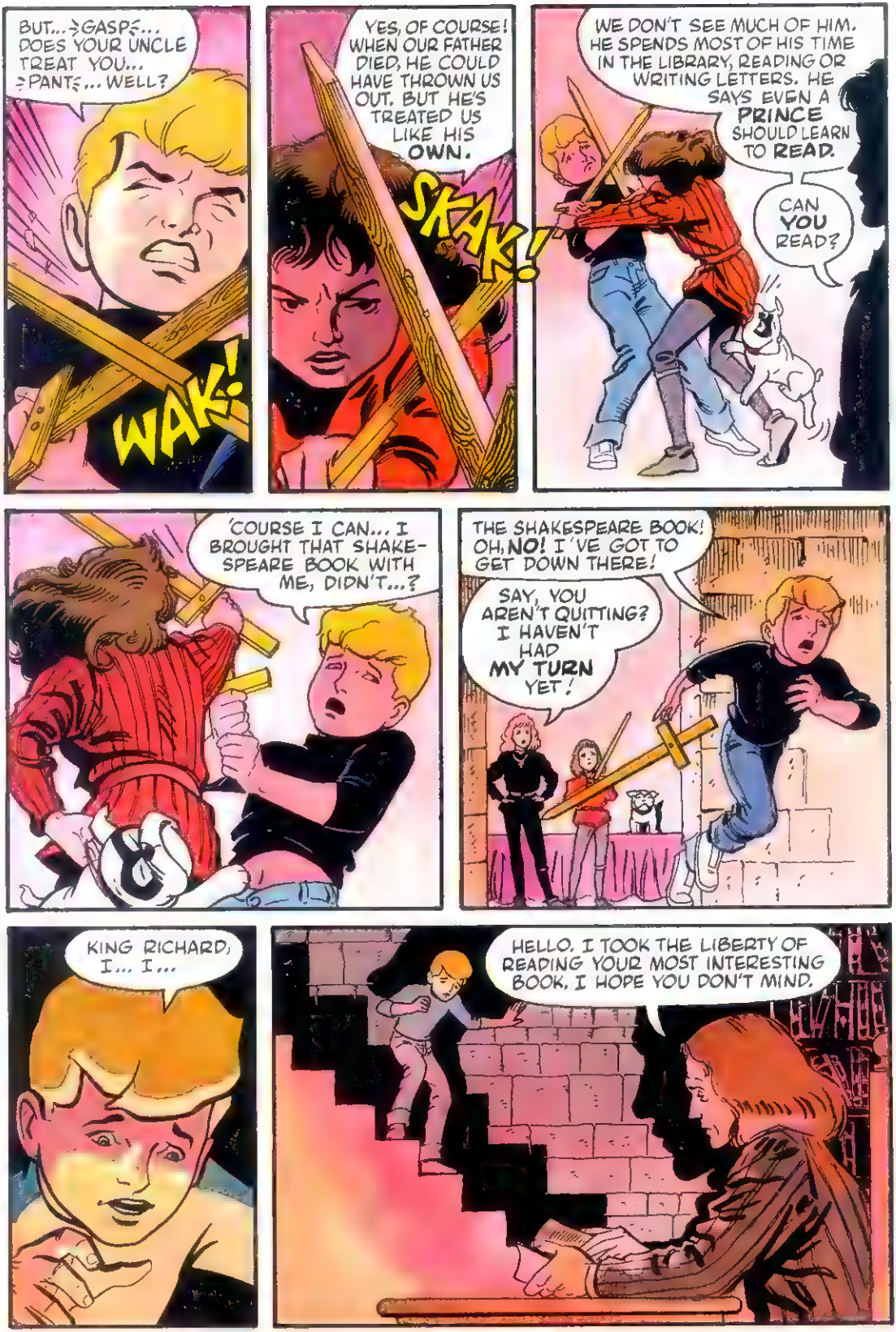

EXPLANATIONS ARE MADE AND MYSTERIES EXPOUNDED. UNFORTUNATELY...
LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND... YOU COME FROM A TIME, 400 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, WHEN MEN CAN FLY TO THE MOON AND BREATHE UNDERWATER?
YOU WERE SENT HITHER BY THE VIRTUOUS, YET POOR, DESCENDANT OF THE TRAITOR MONTROSE... WHOSE CRYSTAL BALL MISFIRED?
NOT EXACTLY. I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS, BUT...

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS, OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT! OH, GO TO BED.
POOR TYKE! 'TIS OBVIOUS THE STRAIN OF THE DAY HAS ADDLED YOU!

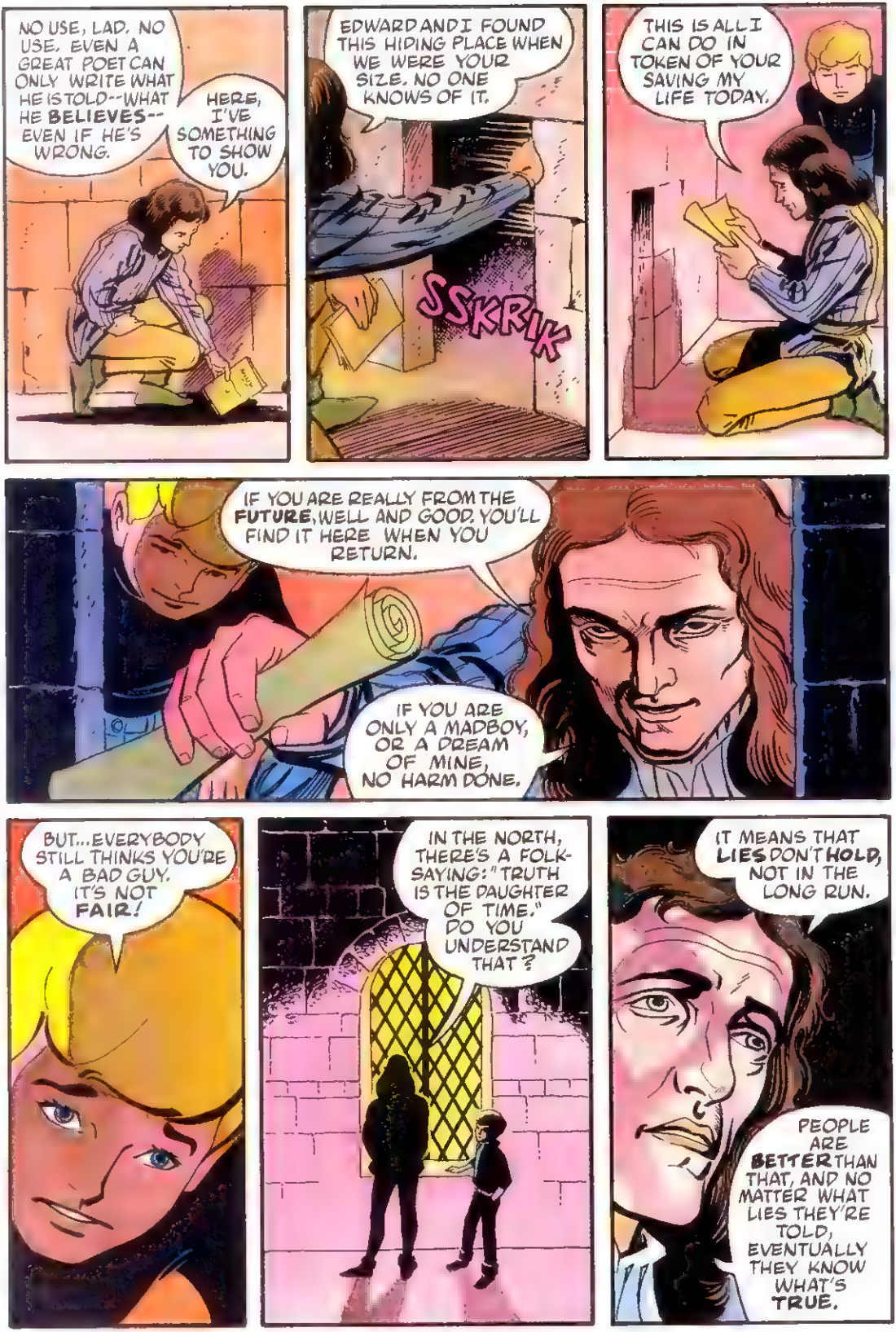
CRYSTAL BALLS... FLYING MEN...
WHAT'S THIS?

PRINTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM... COPYRIGHT 1974.
Richard III

I CAN'T SLEEP, BANDIT. IF WE FALL ASLEEP HERE, WHERE'LL WE WAKE UP NEXT? AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET HOME?
DO YOU WANT TO SWORDFIGHT, JONIKWEST?
SOMETIMES WE PRACTICE SWORDS BEFORE WE GO TO BED, SO WE CAN SLEEP.
UM... NO THANKS, I THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD FOR ME.
SOMETIMES HADJI AND I HAVE PILLOW FIGHTS. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE PILLOWS.
PILLOWS! OF COURSE WE DON'T! NOBODY SLEEPS ON PILLOWS, 'CEPT LADIES WHO ARE HAVING BABIES.
PILLOWS FOR SLEEPING ON! WHAT A THOUGHT!
WHO ARE YOU KIDS, ANYWAY?
I'M THE PRINCE OF WALES AND HE'S THE DUKE OF YORK! WE'RE THE KING'S NEPHEWS.
COME ON AND FENCE A BIT, THEY'RE JUST WOODEN SWORDS. THEY WON'T HURT MUCH!
OOF! YOU HIT HARD!
BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID-- LIVING IN THIS TOWER, I MEAN?
KRAK!
OF COURSE NOT! THIS IS THE SAFEST PLACE IN LONDON. OUR MOTHER AND SISTERS LIVE HERE, TOO. AND THE KING.
IF THE FRENCH INVADE, WE'LL BE SAFE AS ANYTHING HERE!


BUT... GASP... DOES YOUR UNCLE TREAT YOU... PANT... WELL?
WAK!
YES, OF COURSE! WHEN OUR FATHER DIED, HE COULD HAVE THROWN US OUT. BUT HE'S TREATED US LIKE HIS OWN.
SKAK!
WE DON'T SEE MUCH OF HIM. HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE LIBRARY, READING OR WRITING LETTERS. HE SAYS EVEN A PRINCE SHOULD LEARN TO READ.
CAN YOU READ?
'COURSE I CAN... I BROUGHT THAT SHAKESPEARE BOOK WITH ME, DIDN'T...?
THE SHAKESPEARE BOOK! OH, NO! I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN THERE!
SAY, YOU AREN'T QUITTING? I HAVEN'T HAD MY TURN YET!
KING RICHARD, I... I...
HELLO. I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF READING YOUR MOST INTERESTING BOOK. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.

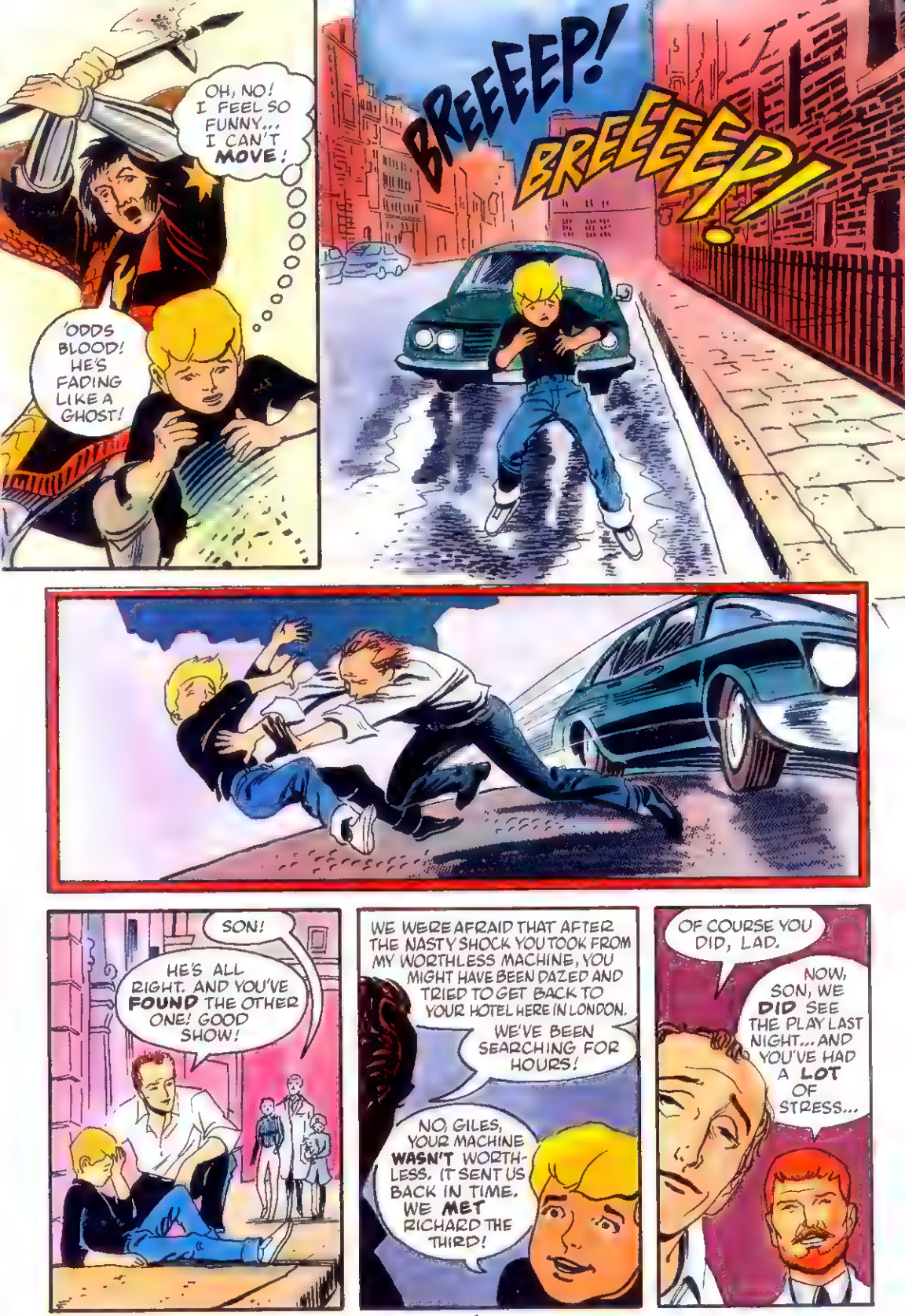
NO, I DON'T MIND... BUT... BUT THE BOOK...
YES, THE BOOK. THE BOOK PROVES YOU ARE FROM THE FUTURE, BY THE WAY. I APOLOGIZE FOR DOUBTING YOU.
IT ALSO PROVES THAT, 400 YEARS AFTER I'M DEAD, MEN WILL REVILE ME AS A HIDEOUS MURDERER... A CROUCHBACKED FIEND, WHO MURDERED HIS OWN BROTHER FOR THE THRONE!
SO... HENRY TUDOR WINS, AFTER ALL. WINS EVERYTHING, AND MAKES ME A MONSTER WITH HIS LIES.
IT'S ALMOST A GRIM JOKE.
YOU NEVER KNEW MY BROTHER EDWARD, THE BOYS' FATHER... HE WAS A BIG LAUGHING BOY OF A MAN... FULL OF SPIRIT... AND HE DREAMED OF AN ENGLAND FREE OF THIS ENDLESS CIVIL WAR.
AFTER HE DIED, I DID WHAT I COULD TO BRING PEACE.
I'VE PARDONED THE WOODVILLES AND THE NEVILLES AND THE REST, HOPING THEY'D SEE WE COULD ALL LIVE WITHOUT HATE.
BUT THAT, TOO, IT SEEMS, WAS A FAILURE.
I HATE SHAKESPEARE... I HATE HIM!
Richard III
I'LL NEVER READ HIM AGAIN!

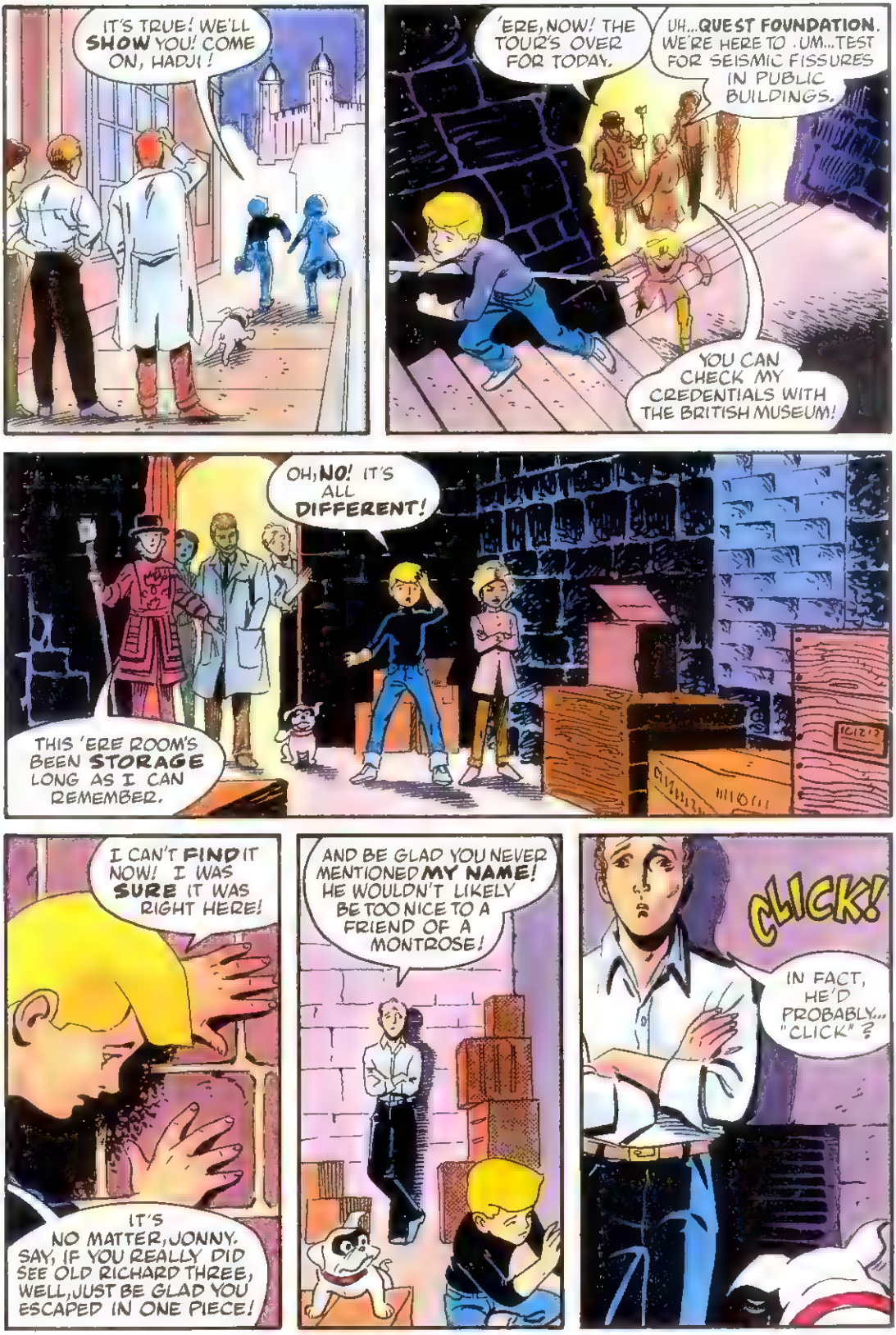

NO USE, LAD. NO USE. EVEN A GREAT POET CAN ONLY WRITE WHAT HE IS TOLD--WHAT HE BELIEVES--EVEN IF HE'S WRONG.
HERE, I'VE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
EDWARD AND I FOUND THIS HIDING PLACE WHEN WE WERE YOUR SIZE. NO ONE KNOWS OF IT.
SSKRIK
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO IN TOKEN OF YOUR SAVING MY LIFE TODAY.
IF YOU ARE REALLY FROM THE FUTURE, WELL AND GOOD. YOU'LL FIND IT HERE WHEN YOU RETURN.
IF YOU ARE ONLY A MADBOY, OR A DREAM OF MINE, NO HARM DONE.
BUT...EVERYBODY STILL THINKS YOU'RE A BAD GUY. IT'S NOT FAIR!
IN THE NORTH, THERE'S A FOLK-SAYING: "TRUTH IS THE DAUGHTER OF TIME." DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
IT MEANS THAT LIES DON'T HOLD, NOT IN THE LONG RUN.
PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN THAT, AND NO MATTER WHAT LIES THEY'RE TOLD, EVENTUALLY THEY KNOW WHAT'S TRUE.

MY BROTHER EDWARD BELIEVED THAT. I MUST ALSO TRY.
NOW, THAT'S ODD. THIS EARLY IN THE DAY...
...THERE'S A RIDER ON THE COAST ROAD.
IT'S HADJI!
JONNY... YOU MUST GET ME TO THE KING... SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
THERE ARE MANY SHIPS... AN INVASION ON THE COAST. THE MAN IN CHARGE IS HENRY TUDOR.
AND, JONNY... I READ HIS MIND...
...I HAVE NEVER FELT SUCH FEAR... HIS MIND WAS FULL OF IT... AND IT DRIVES HIM...
...HE MEANS TO KILL EVERYONE WITH A TRACE OF ROYAL BLOOD... MEN, BOYS... ANYONE!

I'VE GATHERED WHAT LOYAL FORCES I COULD. IF WE RIDE HARD, WE CAN STOP THE INVASION FORCE AT BOSWORTH FIELD, WITH LUCK.
BOSWORTH? BUT BOSWORTH'S WHERE SHAKESPEARE SAYS YOU...YOU...
YES, I KNOW. PERHAPS HE'S WRONG ABOUT THAT, TOO.
BUT IN CASE HE'S NOT, I'M HAVING THE PRINCES SENT AWAY TO FRIENDS OF MINE IN THE NORTH.
BUT WE WANT TO GO WITH YOU, SIRE! WE'RE WARRIORS!
THE FIRST DUTY OF A WARRIOR IS TO SURVIVE.
THAT'S A SOUND BEAST YOU RIDE. HE CARRIED THE WARNING OF THE INVASION ALL THE WAY FROM THE COAST. SEE YOU TREAT HIM WELL.
COME, MEN! WE'RE OFF!
JONNY, DO YOU THINK HE'LL COME BACK?
NO, I DON'T.

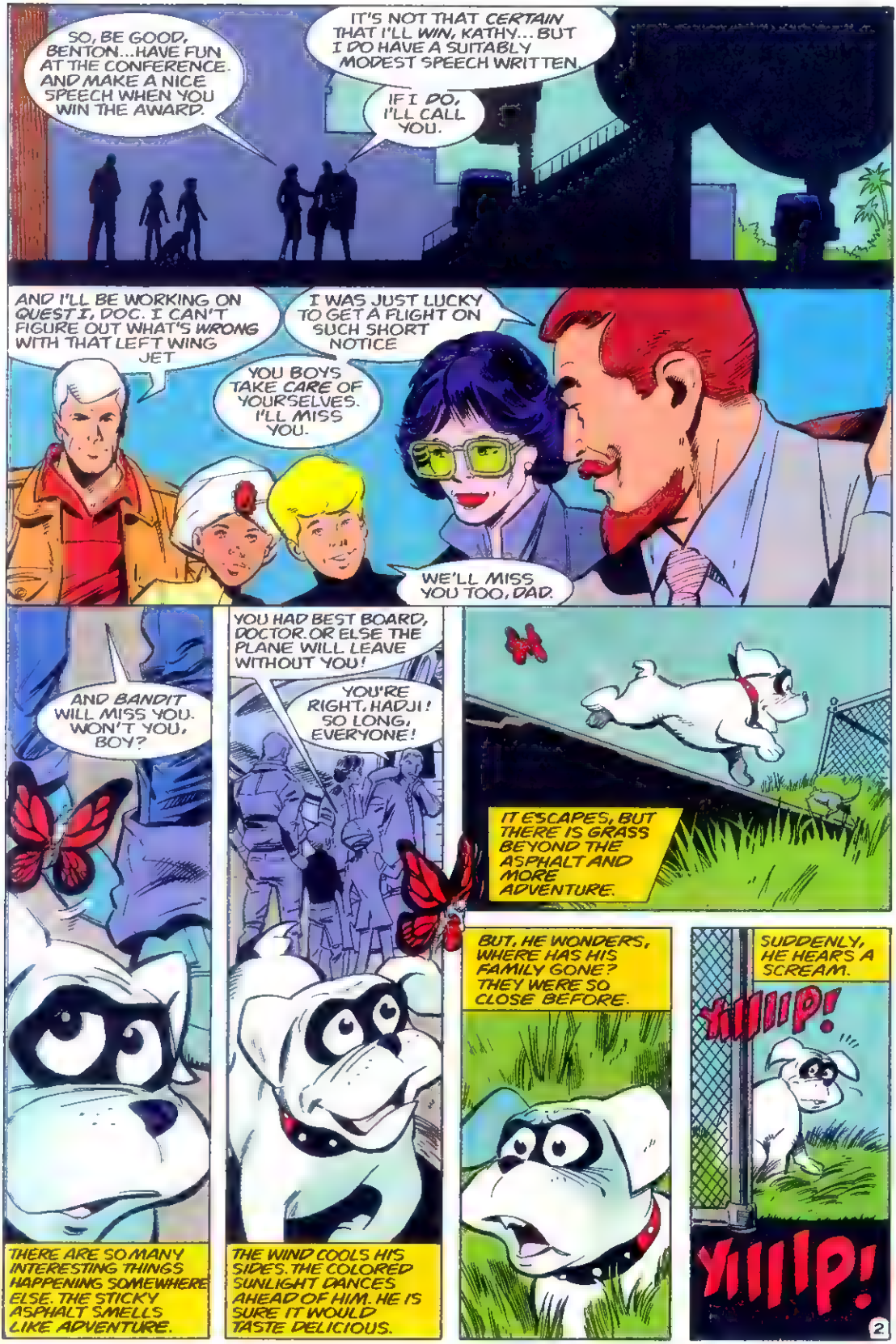
AT LEAST HE MADE SURE HIS NEPHEWS WERE SAFE, BEFORE HE LEFT. ENGLAND IS GOING TO BE A DANGEROUS...
...PLACE.
HADJI! IT'S MONTROSE AND THE OTHER GUY FROM THE GATE-HOUSE!
THEY'RE KIDNAPPING THE PRINCES! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
HORSE! DANGER! RUN! RUN AWAY!
DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING! GET AWAY! RUN!
KILL ME THAT INTERFERING SPROUT!

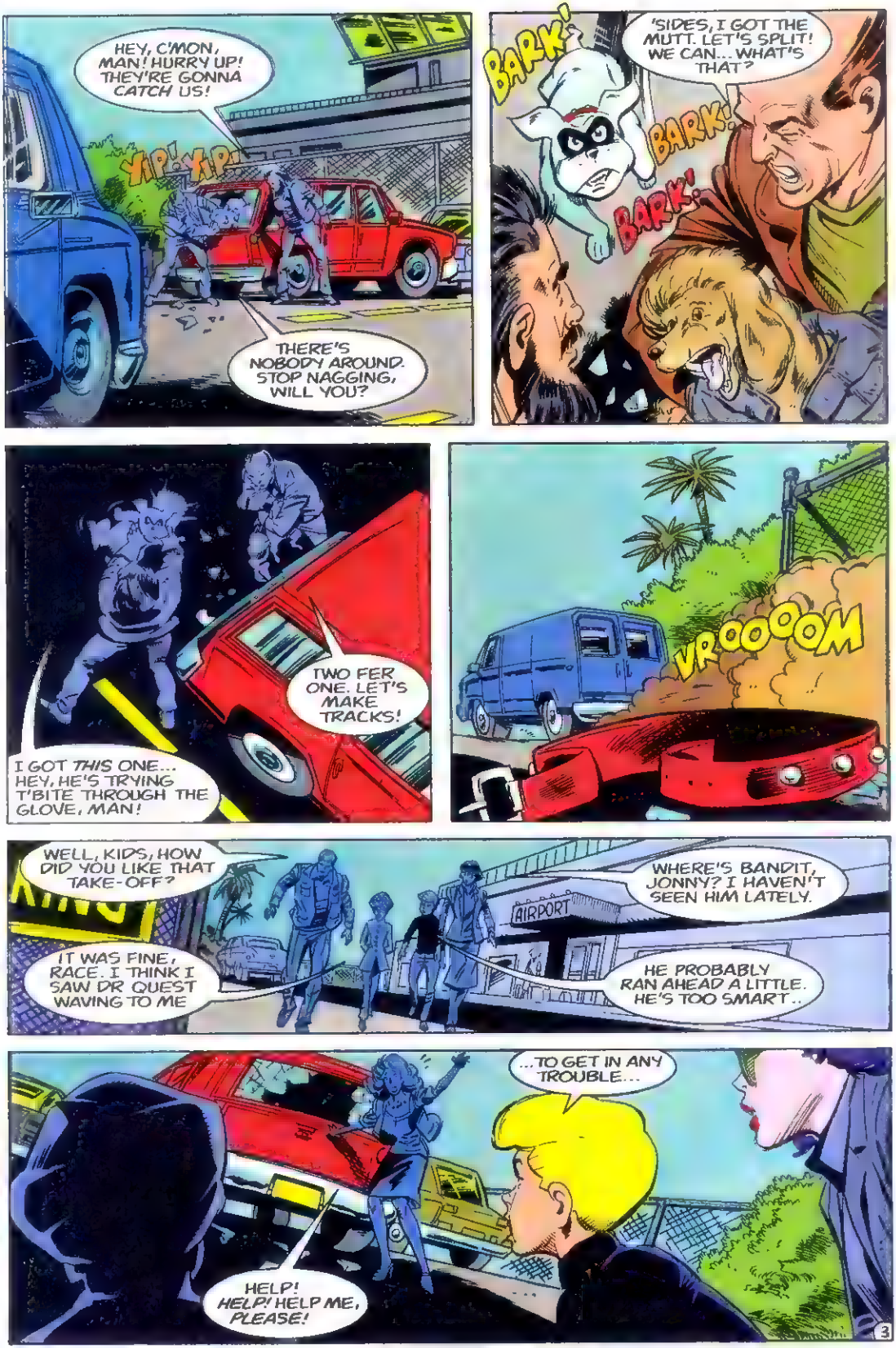

OH, NO! I FEEL SO FUNNY... I CAN'T MOVE!
'ODDS BLOOD! HE'S FADING LIKE A GHOST!
BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!
SON!
HE'S ALL RIGHT. AND YOU'VE FOUND THE OTHER ONE! GOOD SHOW!
WE WERE AFRAID THAT AFTER THE NASTY SHOCK YOU TOOK FROM MY WORTHLESS MACHINE, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN DAZED AND TRIED TO GET BACK TO YOUR HOTEL HERE IN LONDON.
WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS!
NO, GILES, YOUR MACHINE WASN'T WORTHLESS. IT SENT US BACK IN TIME. WE MET RICHARD THE THIRD!
OF COURSE YOU DID, LAD.
NOW, SON, WE DID SEE THE PLAY LAST NIGHT... AND YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF STRESS...


IT'S TRUE! WE'LL SHOW YOU! COME ON, HADJI!
'ERE, NOW! THE TOUR'S OVER FOR TODAY.
UH...QUEST FOUNDATION. WE'RE HERE TO .UM...TEST FOR SEISMIC FISSURES IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
YOU CAN CHECK MY CREDENTIALS WITH THE BRITISH MUSEUM!
OH, NO! IT'S ALL DIFFERENT!
THIS 'ERE ROOM'S BEEN STORAGE LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
I CAN'T FIND IT NOW! I WAS SURE IT WAS RIGHT HERE!
IT'S NO MATTER, JONNY. SAY, IF YOU REALLY DID SEE OLD RICHARD THREE, WELL, JUST BE GLAD YOU ESCAPED IN ONE PIECE!
AND BE GLAD YOU NEVER MENTIONED MY NAME! HE WOULDN'T LIKELY BE TOO NICE TO A FRIEND OF A MONTROSE!
CLICK!
IN FACT, HE'D PROBABLY... "CLICK"?

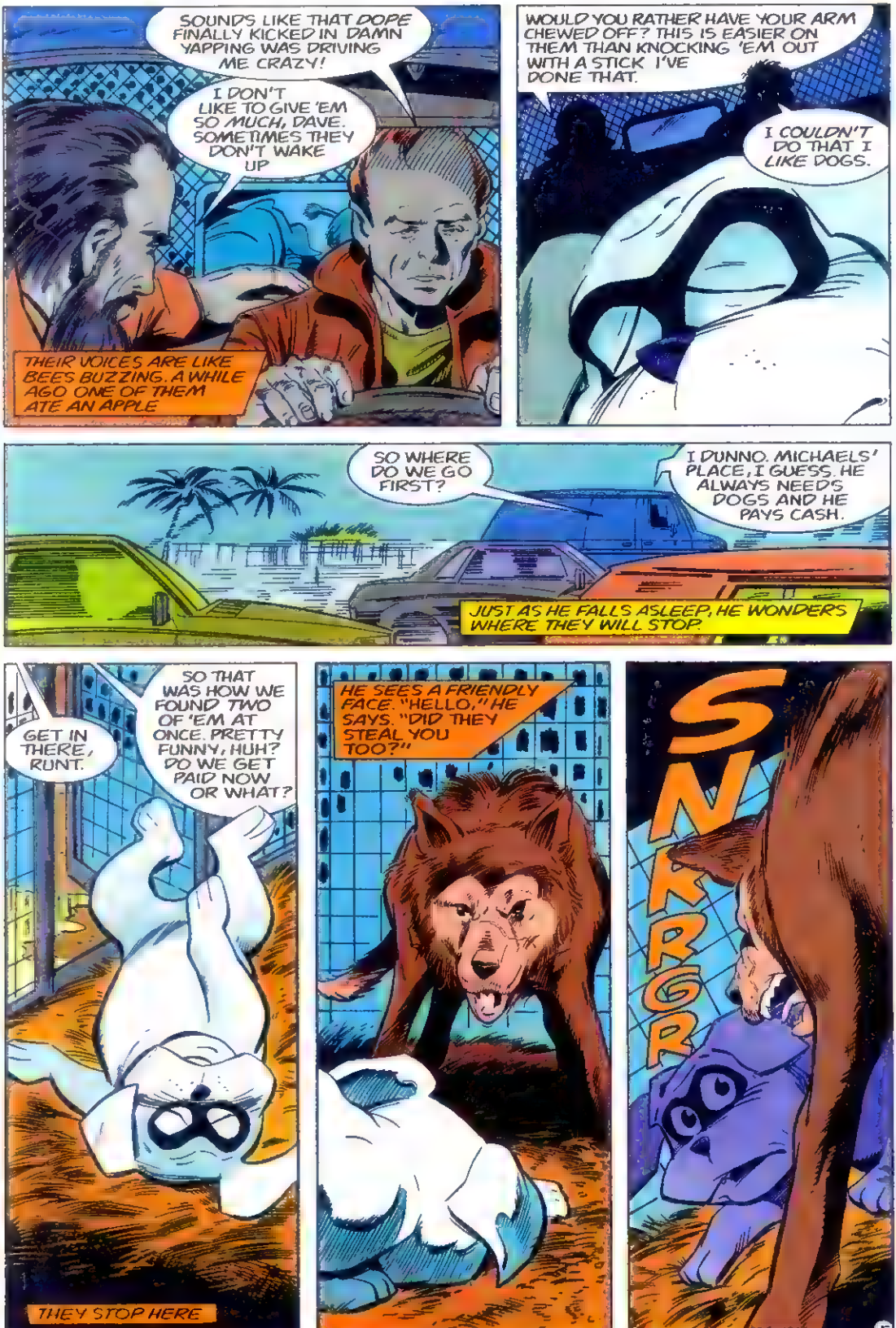
BANDIT!
WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE FOUND, BOY? PAPER OF SOME SORT...
UM... IT'S IN LATIN. YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO READ LATIN, DO YOU, BENTON?
I'M A BIT RUSTY SINCE MY COLLEGE DAYS, BUT I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.
"I RICHARD PLANTAGENET, LAWFUL KING OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, DO HEREWITH BEQUEATH TO THOMAS MONTROSE AND HIS DESCENDANTS...
"... ALL THE LANDS FROM THE SOUTH RIVER TO LATTERSIDE HEATH, INCLUDING ALL BUILDINGS, REVENUES, AND..."
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT! THE LOST DEED!
WE'RE RICH! WE'RE RICH!
NOW, THIS IS INTERESTING... UNDER THE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL IS WRITTEN: "IN GRATITUDE AND FRIENDSHIP. REMEMBER THE DAUGHTER OF TIME. R."
WHAT FRIENDSHIP? AND WHO THE DEVIL IS THIS DAUGHTER OF TIME?
I'M NOT SURE MYSELF, GILES, BUT I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET AN EXPLANATION THAT WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF!

DOG DAYS
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS
WRITING
JOE STATON · RICK BURCHETT
PENCILLING
INKING
BOB PINAHA
LETTERING
RICK TAYLOR
COLORING
DIANA SCHUTZ
BARKING
ALL PASSENGERS FOR DETROIT, NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON ON FLIGHT 227-- PLEASE BEGIN BOARDING NOW.
COME ON, YOU TWO. BREAK IT UP! THE NICE MAN SAYS IT'S TIME TO GO!
YUUKKK! MUSH ALERT!
HE WONDERS WHY THEY HAVE COME TO THIS LOUD, HOT CROWDED PLACE. THERE IS NOTHING TO EAT, NO WATER, AND NOTHING TO DO. ALL THEY DO IS STAND AND TALK.
HE IS BORED.
1


SO, BE GOOD, BENTON...HAVE FUN AT THE CONFERENCE. AND MAKE A NICE SPEECH WHEN YOU WIN THE AWARD.
IT'S NOT THAT CERTAIN THAT I'LL WIN, KATHY... BUT I DO HAVE A SUITABLY MODEST SPEECH WRITTEN.
IF I DO, I'LL CALL YOU.
AND I'LL BE WORKING ON QUEST I, DOC. I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT LEFT WING JET
I WAS JUST LUCKY TO GET A FLIGHT ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE
YOU BOYS TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES. I'LL MISS YOU.
WE'LL MISS YOU TOO, DAD.
AND BANDIT WILL MISS YOU. WON'T YOU, BOY?
THERE ARE SO MANY INTERESTING THINGS HAPPENING SOMEWHERE ELSE. THE STICKY ASPHALT SMELLS LIKE ADVENTURE.
YOU HAD BEST BOARD, DOCTOR. OR ELSE THE PLANE WILL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT, HADJI! SO LONG, EVERYONE!
THE WIND COOLS HIS SIDES. THE COLORED SUNLIGHT DANCES AHEAD OF HIM. HE IS SURE IT WOULD TASTE DELICIOUS.
IT ESCAPES, BUT THERE IS GRASS BEYOND THE ASPHALT AND MORE ADVENTURE.
BUT, HE WONDERS, WHERE HAS HIS FAMILY GONE? THEY WERE SO CLOSE BEFORE.
SUDDENLY, HE HEARS A SCREAM.
YIIIP!
YIIIP!
2


HEY, C'MON, MAN! HURRY UP! THEY'RE GONNA CATCH US!
YIP! YIP!
THERE'S NOBODY AROUND. STOP NAGGING, WILL YOU?
BARK!
'SIDES, I GOT THE MUTT. LET'S SPLIT! WE CAN... WHAT'S THAT?
BARK!
BARK!
I GOT THIS ONE... HEY, HE'S TRYING T'BITE THROUGH THE GLOVE, MAN!
TWO FER ONE. LET'S MAKE TRACKS!
VROOOOOM
WELL, KIDS, HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT TAKE-OFF?
IT WAS FINE, RACE. I THINK I SAW DR QUEST WAVING TO ME
AIRPORT
WHERE'S BANDIT, JONNY? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY.
HE PROBABLY RAN AHEAD A LITTLE. HE'S TOO SMART..
...TO GET IN ANY TROUBLE...
HELP! HELP! HELP ME, PLEASE!

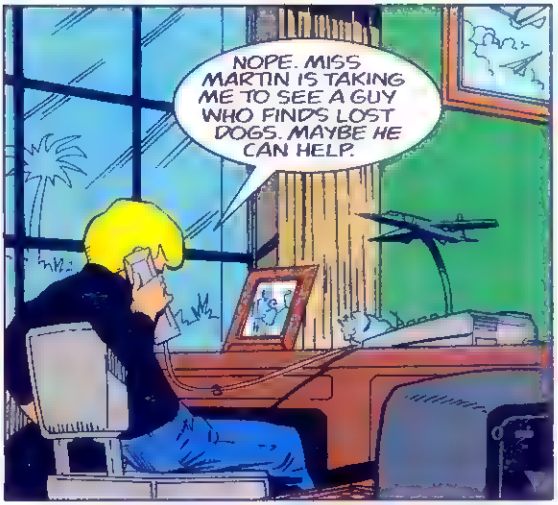
HE'S GONE! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? PUDDLES IS GONE! HE'S BEEN STOLEN! PLEASE DO SOMETHING! MY DOG HAS BEEN STOLEN!
JONNY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HE WONDERS WHERE HE IS. A GRAY-GREEN BLUR FLOATS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. BANDIT FLOATS INSIDE. THEY HURT HIS LEG WITH A NEEDLE--NOW IT IS HARD TO STAY AWAKE.
HE WOULD LIKE TO JUMP AT THEM, BITING AND TEARING, BUT SOMEHOW HIS LEGS WILL NOT WORK. HIS BARK IS STUCK IN HIS THROAT.
HE CAN SMELL BURNING OIL. HE CAN SMELL THE FEAR ON ONE MAN, THE EXCITEMENT ON THE OTHER.
AUTO
HE SMELLS OLD CHILI
HE CANNOT RAISE HIS HEAD. SOMEHOW THEY HAVE DONE THIS TO HIM--MADE HIM WEAK AND STUPID. HIS SIGHT FADES IN AND OUT LIKE THE FLAPPING OF DARK CLOTH
LIKE ALL HUMANS, THEY ARE MAGICAL... BUT THEIR MAGIC IS EVIL.
4

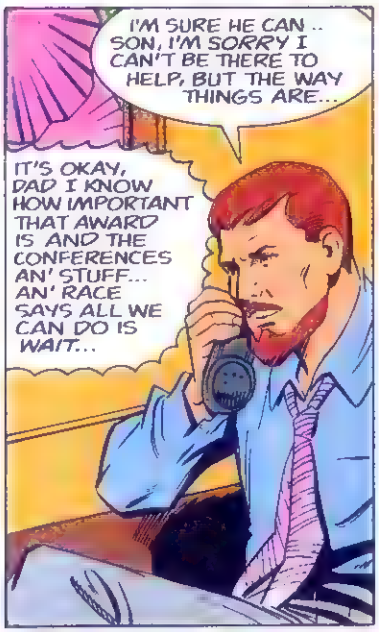

SOUNDS LIKE THAT DOPE FINALLY KICKED IN DAMN YAPPING WAS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
I DON'T LIKE TO GIVE 'EM SO MUCH, DAVE. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T WAKE UP
THEIR VOICES ARE LIKE BEES BUZZING. A WHILE AGO ONE OF THEM ATE AN APPLE
WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE YOUR ARM CHEWED OFF? THIS IS EASIER ON THEM THAN KNOCKING 'EM OUT WITH A STICK I'VE DONE THAT.
I COULDN'T DO THAT I LIKE DOGS.
SO WHERE DO WE GO FIRST?
I DUNNO. MICHAELS' PLACE, I GUESS. HE ALWAYS NEEDS DOGS AND HE PAYS CASH.
JUST AS HE FALLS ASLEEP, HE WONDERS WHERE THEY WILL STOP.
GET IN THERE, RUNT.
SO THAT WAS HOW WE FOUND TWO OF 'EM AT ONCE. PRETTY FUNNY, HUH? DO WE GET PAID NOW OR WHAT?
THEY STOP HERE
HE SEES A FRIENDLY FACE. "HELLO," HE SAYS. "DID THEY STEAL YOU TOO?"
SNKRGR
5

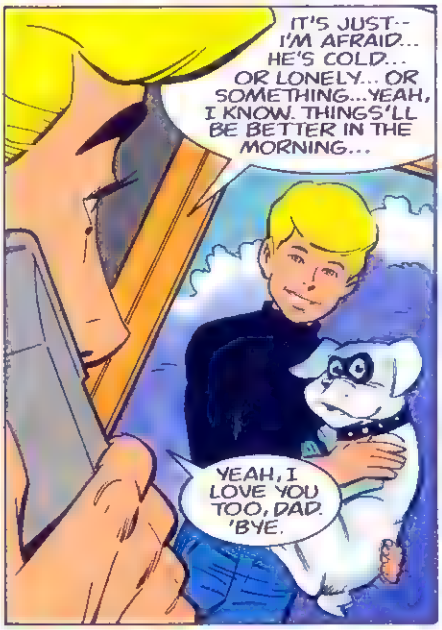
JONNY...? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
I'M FINE, RACE
WHAT DID THE POLICE SAY ABOUT BANDIT, RACE?
THEY TOOK DOWN THE INFORMATION, BUT THEY WEREN'T ENCOURAGING, HAJ.
APPARENTLY, THERE ARE SIX DOGS STOLEN EVERY HOUR IN THIS CITY. BUT THEY SAID THEY'D WATCH
THEY ACTED LIKE IT WASN'T IMPORTANT...LIKE IT WASN'T BANDIT.
'SCUSE ME... I'M GOING UP TO MY ROOM... I'M NOT HUNGRY.
ROARLL!
SNAKP!
GRRRR!
"HATE YOU! KILL YOU! STAY AWAY!" SNARLS THE LARGER DOG. BANDIT SMELLS SOMETHING MORE THAN THE STINK OF THE CAGE. HE SMELLS DEATH.
"DON'T WORRY," SAYS A DOG WITH A TORN EAR. "HE IS OLD AND HURTING. HIS LAST FIGHT WENT BADLY. NOW HE HAS NO STRENGTH. HE HAS BEEN PUT INTO THIS CAGE WITH US, TO DIE."

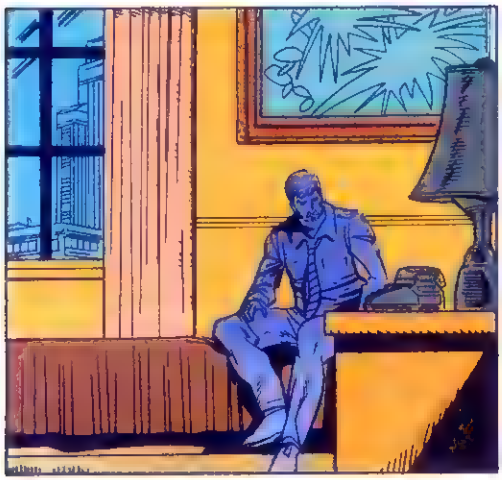
"DIE?" ASK'S BANDIT YES, THE OTHERS TELL HIM. "WHEN THE HUMANS WANT, THEY MAKE US FIGHT. AND WE DIE."
"WHO DO WE FIGHT?" ASK'S BANDIT.
"HIM."
"HE IS CALLED SLASHER. HE IS MAD HE HAS KILLED SO MANY THAT HE LIVES IN A RED MIST. THE WORLD IS HIS ENEMY
"MY HUMAN NAME IS DUKE, BUT MY PACK NAME IS GREYBACK."
"MY HUMAN NAME IS PUDDLES, BUT MY PACK NAME IS LONGLEG.
"WHAT IS YOUR PACK NAME?"
"I WAS RAISED AS A PUPPY AMONG HUMANS, SO I DON'T HAVE A PACK NAME," HE SAYS.
"BUT MY HUMANS CALL ME 'BANDIT.' I THINK IT MEANS 'CLEVER AND COURAGEOUS.'"

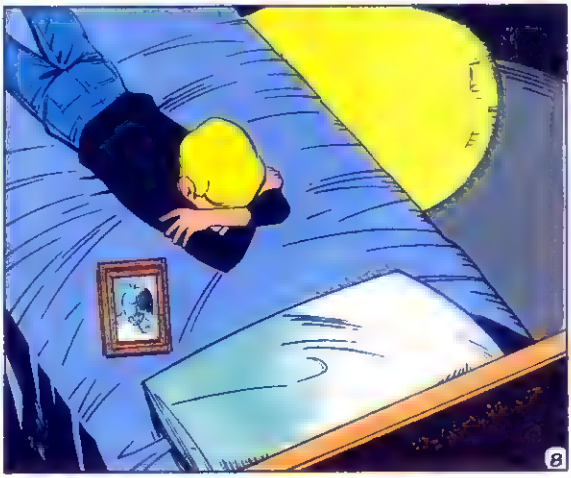
HELLO, SON... YES, RACE TOLD ME ABOUT BANDIT. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING?

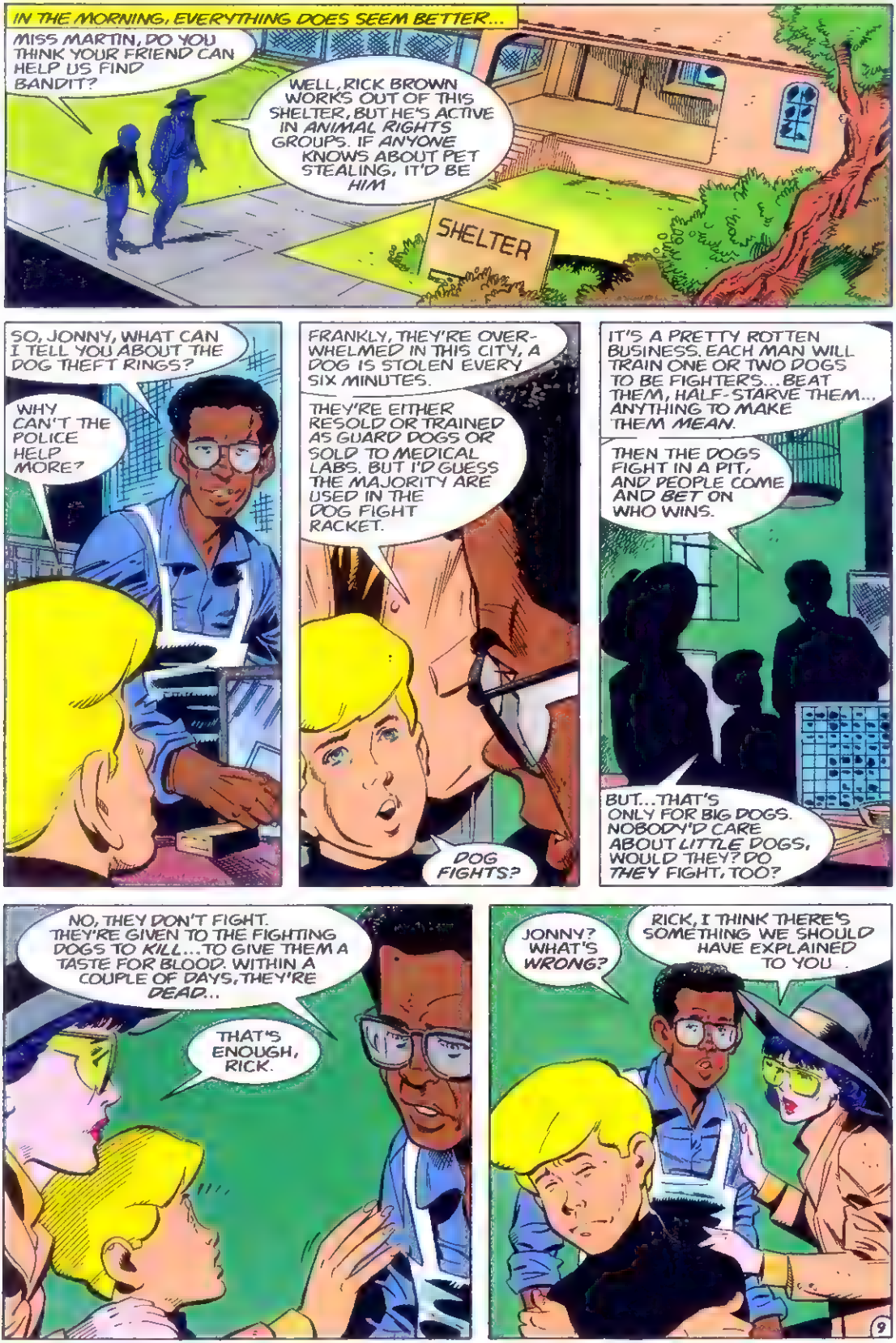

NOPE. MISS MARTIN IS TAKING ME TO SEE A GUY WHO FINDS LOST DOGS. MAYBE HE CAN HELP.

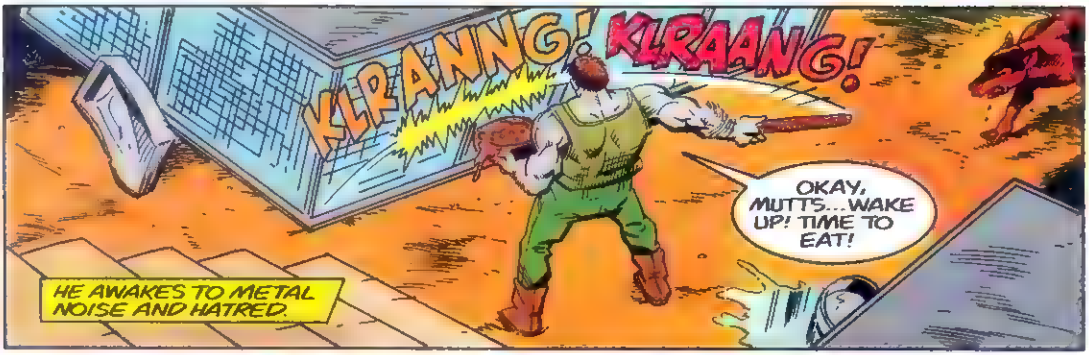

I'M SURE HE CAN .. SON, I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE THERE TO HELP, BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE...
IT'S OKAY, DAD I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THAT AWARD IS AND THE CONFERENCES AN' STUFF... AN' RACE SAYS ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT...

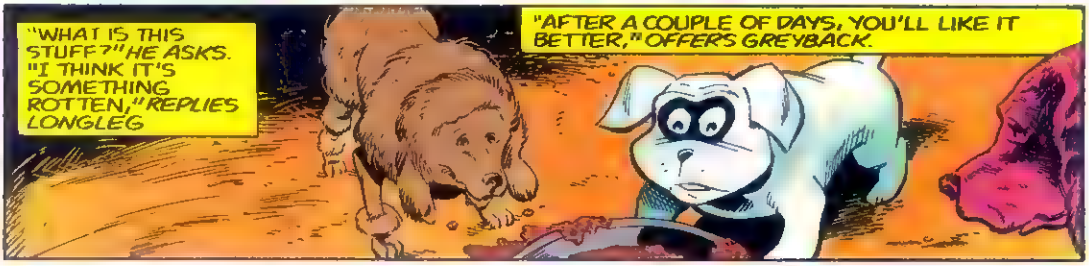

IT'S JUST-- I'M AFRAID... HE'S COLD... OR LONELY... OR SOMETHING...YEAH, I KNOW. THINGS'LL BE BETTER IN THE MORNING...
YEAH, I LOVE YOU TOO, DAD. 'BYE.

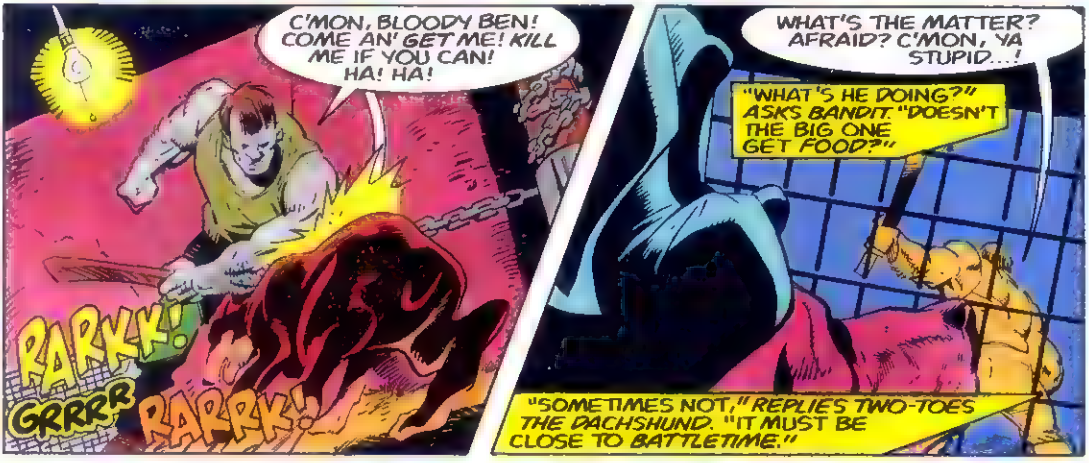


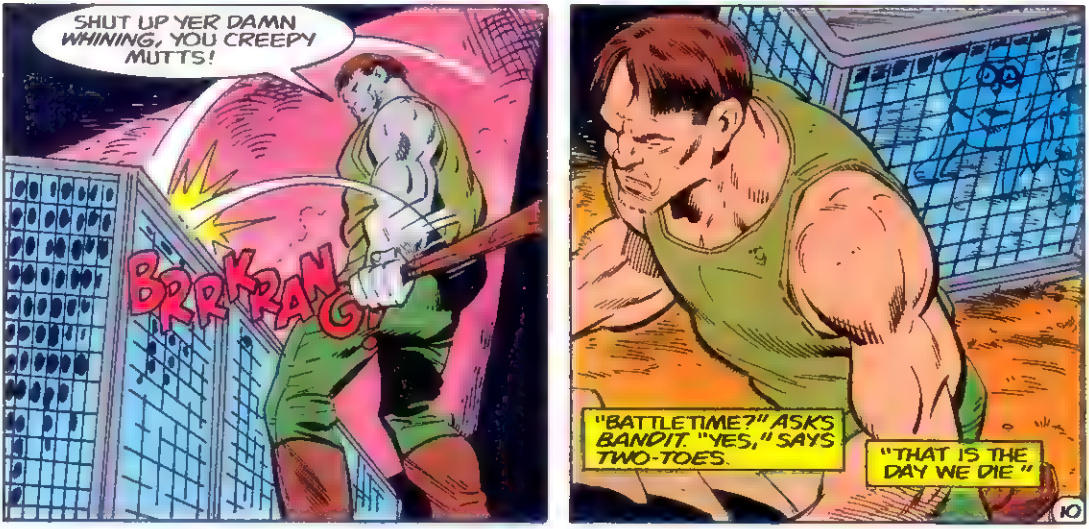

8

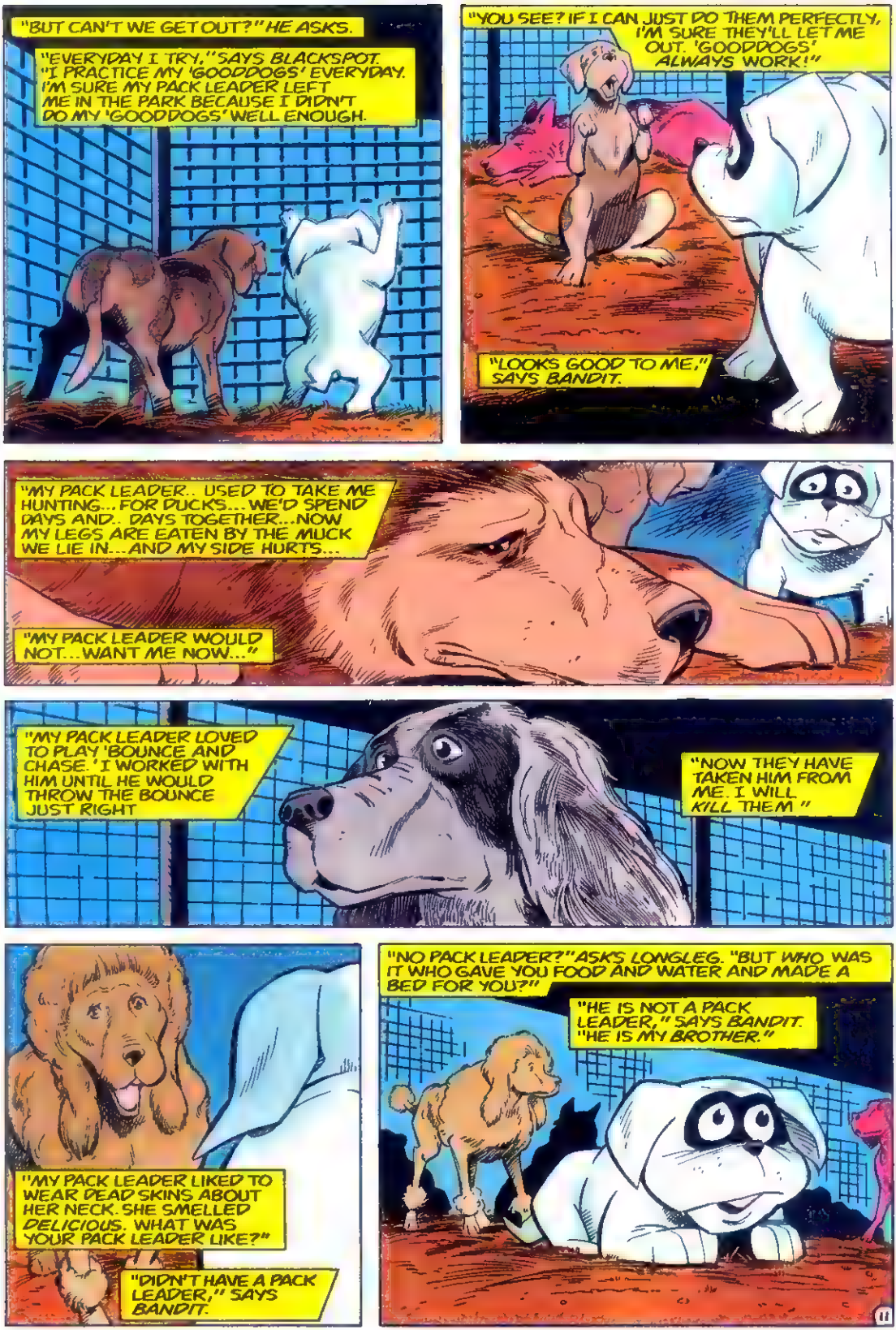

IN THE MORNING, EVERYTHING DOES SEEM BETTER...
MISS MARTIN, DO YOU THINK YOUR FRIEND CAN HELP US FIND BANDIT?
WELL, RICK BROWN WORKS OUT OF THIS SHELTER, BUT HE'S ACTIVE IN ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS. IF ANYONE KNOWS ABOUT PET STEALING, IT'D BE HIM
SHELTER
SO, JONNY, WHAT CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DOG THEFT RINGS?
WHY CAN'T THE POLICE HELP MORE?
FRANKLY, THEY'RE OVER-WHELMED IN THIS CITY, A DOG IS STOLEN EVERY SIX MINUTES.
THEY'RE EITHER RESOLD OR TRAINED AS GUARD DOGS OR SOLD TO MEDICAL LABS. BUT I'D GUESS THE MAJORITY ARE USED IN THE DOG FIGHT RACKET.
DOG FIGHTS?
IT'S A PRETTY ROTTEN BUSINESS. EACH MAN WILL TRAIN ONE OR TWO DOGS TO BE FIGHTERS... BEAT THEM, HALF-STARVE THEM... ANYTHING TO MAKE THEM MEAN.
THEN THE DOGS FIGHT IN A PIT, AND PEOPLE COME AND BET ON WHO WINS.
BUT... THAT'S ONLY FOR BIG DOGS. NOBODY'D CARE ABOUT LITTLE DOGS, WOULD THEY? DO THEY FIGHT, TOO?
NO, THEY DON'T FIGHT. THEY'RE GIVEN TO THE FIGHTING DOGS TO KILL... TO GIVE THEM A TASTE FOR BLOOD. WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS, THEY'RE DEAD...
THAT'S ENOUGH, RICK.
JONNY? WHAT'S WRONG?
RICK, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WE SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU...
9

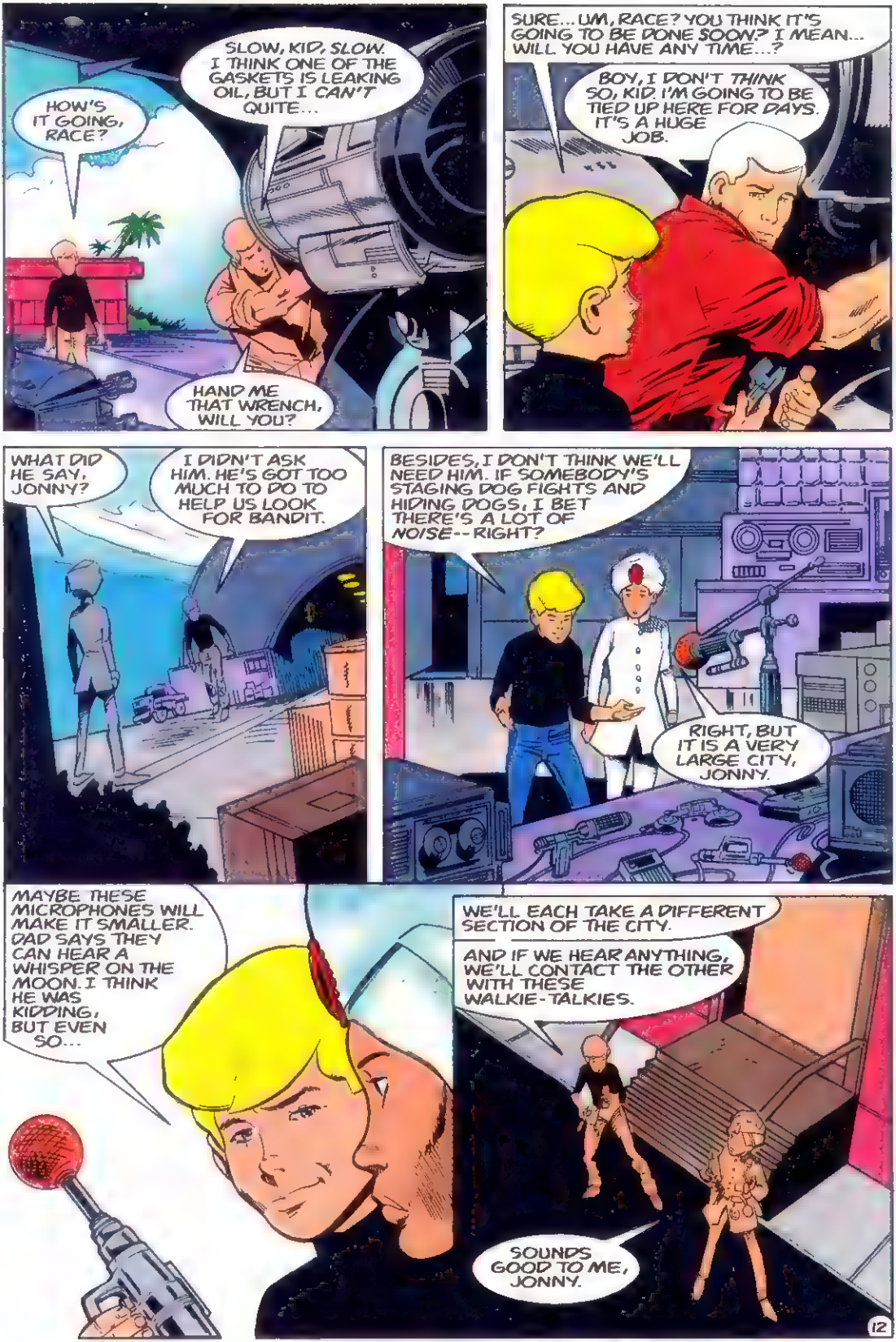

KLRANNG!
KLRAANG!
OKAY, MUTTS... WAKE UP! TIME TO EAT!
HE AWAKES TO METAL NOISE AND HATRED.

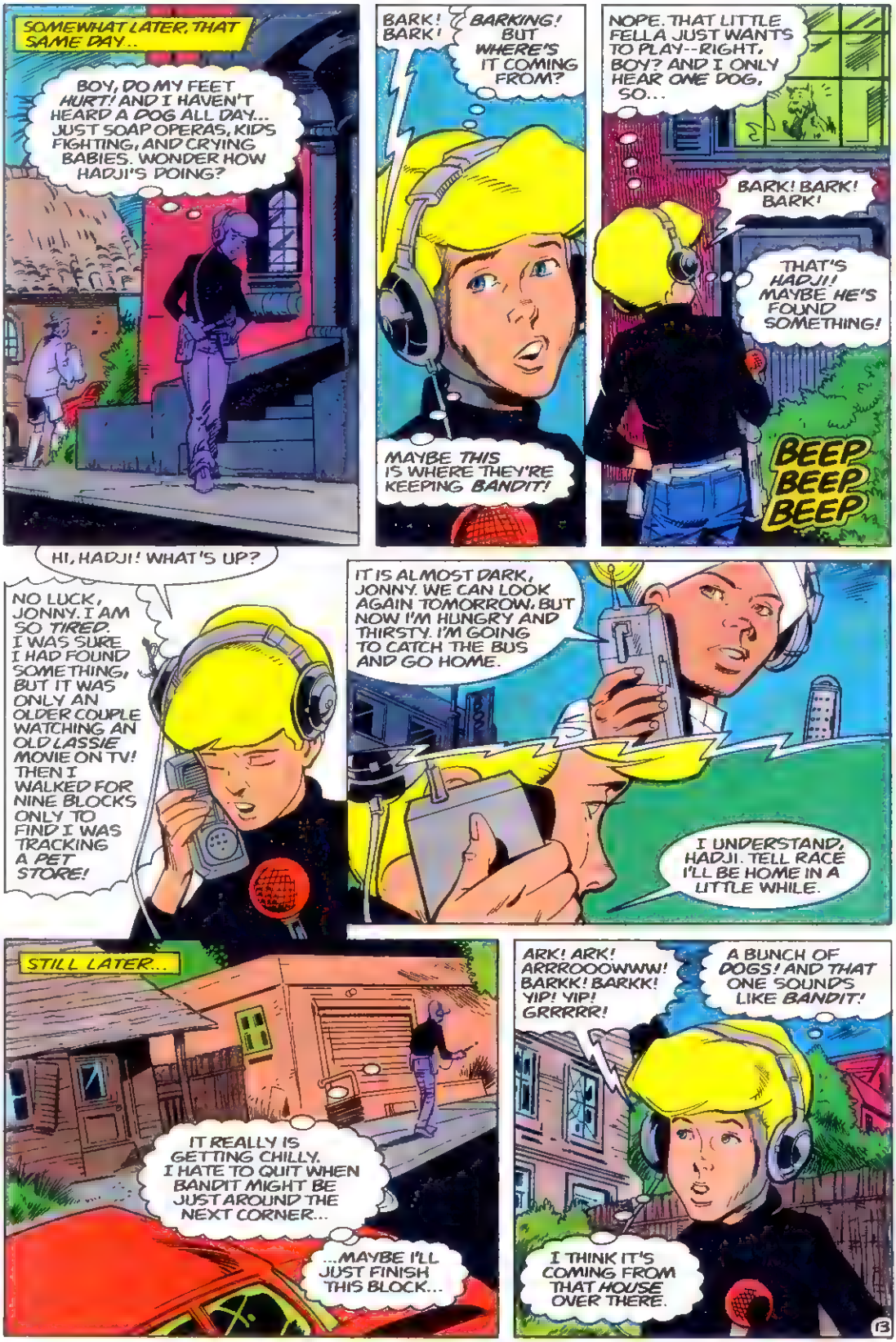

"WHAT IS THIS STUFF?" HE ASKS. "I THINK IT'S SOMETHING ROTTEN," REPLIES LONGLEG
"AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS, YOU'LL LIKE IT BETTER," OFFERS GREYBACK.


C'MON, BLOODY BEN! COME AN' GET ME! KILL ME IF YOU CAN! HA! HA!
RARRK!
GRRRR
RARRK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? AFRAID? C'MON, YA STUPID...!
"WHAT'S HE DOING?" ASKS BANDIT. "DOESN'T THE BIG ONE GET FOOD?"
"SOMETIMES NOT," REPLIES TWO-TOES THE DACHSHUND. "IT MUST BE CLOSE TO BATTLETIME."

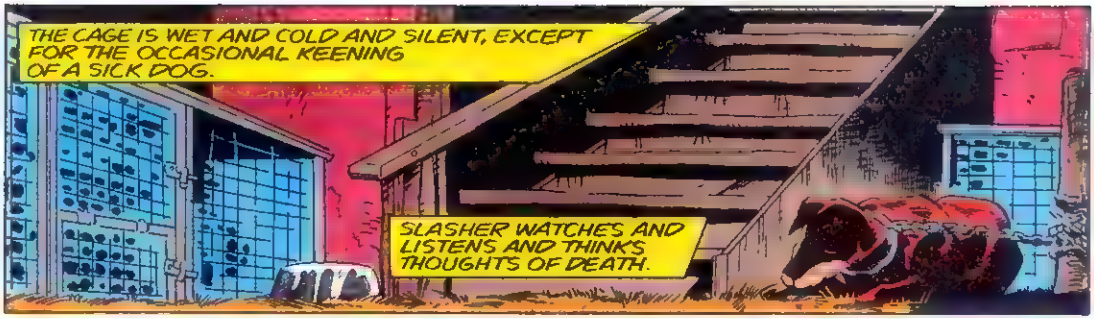

SHUT UP YER DAMN WHINING, YOU CREEPY MUTTS!
BRRKRANG!
"BATTLETIME?" ASKS BANDIT. "YES," SAYS TWO-TOES.
"THAT IS THE DAY WE DIE."

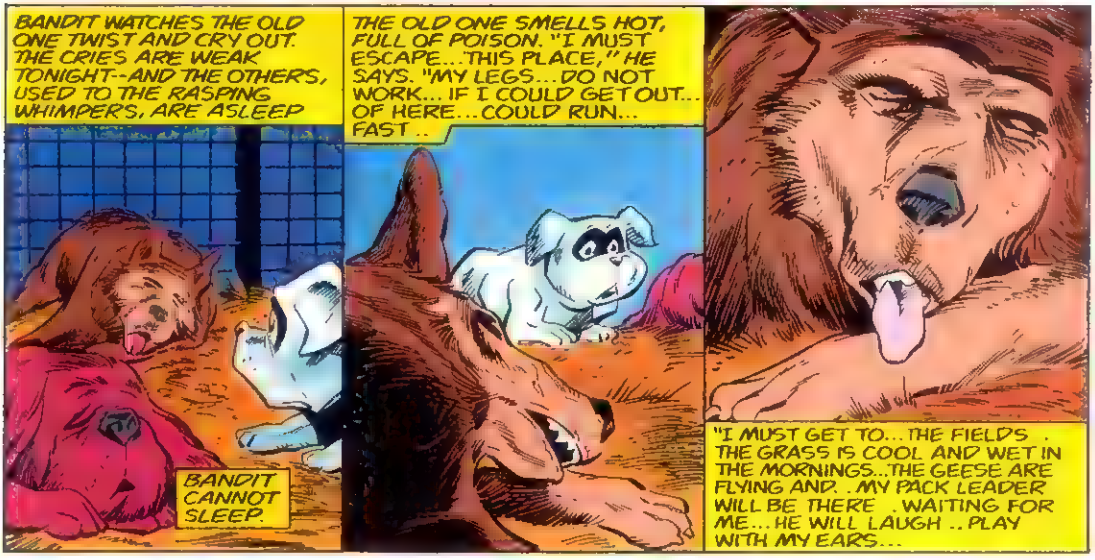

"BUT CAN'T WE GET OUT?" HE ASKS.
"EVERYDAY I TRY," SAYS BLACKSPOT. "I PRACTICE MY 'GOODDOGS' EVERYDAY. I'M SURE MY PACK LEADER LEFT ME IN THE PARK BECAUSE I DIDN'T DO MY 'GOODDOGS' WELL ENOUGH.
"YOU SEE? IF I CAN JUST DO THEM PERFECTLY, I'M SURE THEY'LL LET ME OUT. 'GOODDOGS' ALWAYS WORK!"
"LOOKS GOOD TO ME," SAYS BANDIT.
"MY PACK LEADER.. USED TO TAKE ME HUNTING... FOR DUCKS... WE'D SPEND DAYS AND.. DAYS TOGETHER... NOW MY LEGS ARE EATEN BY THE MUCK WE LIE IN... AND MY SIDE HURTS...
"MY PACK LEADER WOULD NOT... WANT ME NOW..."
"MY PACK LEADER LOVED TO PLAY 'BOUNCE AND CHASE.' I WORKED WITH HIM UNTIL HE WOULD THROW THE BOUNCE JUST RIGHT
"NOW THEY HAVE TAKEN HIM FROM ME. I WILL KILL THEM."
"MY PACK LEADER LIKED TO WEAR DEAD SKINS ABOUT HER NECK. SHE SMELLED DELICIOUS. WHAT WAS YOUR PACK LEADER LIKE?"
"DIDN'T HAVE A PACK LEADER," SAYS BANDIT.
"NO PACK LEADER?" ASKS LONGLEG. "BUT WHO WAS IT WHO GAVE YOU FOOD AND WATER AND MADE A BED FOR YOU?"
"HE IS NOT A PACK LEADER," SAYS BANDIT. "HE IS MY BROTHER."

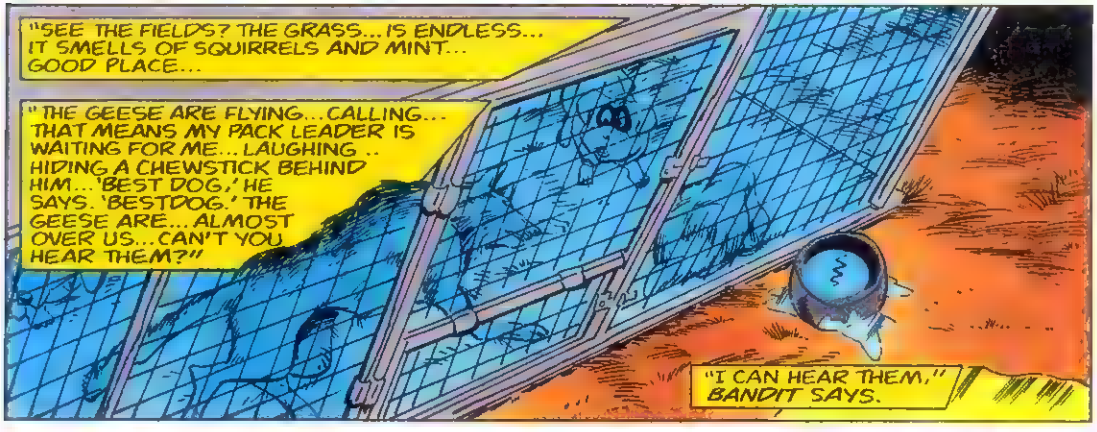

HOW'S IT GOING, RACE?
SLOW, KID, SLOW. I THINK ONE OF THE GASKETS IS LEAKING OIL, BUT I CAN'T QUITE...
HAND ME THAT WRENCH, WILL YOU?
SURE... UM, RACE? YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE DONE SOON? I MEAN... WILL YOU HAVE ANY TIME...?
BOY, I DON'T THINK SO, KID. I'M GOING TO BE TIED UP HERE FOR DAYS. IT'S A HUGE JOB.
WHAT DID HE SAY, JONNY?
I DIDN'T ASK HIM. HE'S GOT TOO MUCH TO DO TO HELP US LOOK FOR BANDIT.
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK WE'LL NEED HIM. IF SOMEBODY'S STAGING DOG FIGHTS AND HIDING DOGS, I BET THERE'S A LOT OF NOISE -- RIGHT?
RIGHT, BUT IT IS A VERY LARGE CITY, JONNY.
MAYBE THESE MICROPHONES WILL MAKE IT SMALLER. DAD SAYS THEY CAN HEAR A WHISPER ON THE MOON. I THINK HE WAS KIDDING, BUT EVEN SO...
WE'LL EACH TAKE A DIFFERENT SECTION OF THE CITY.
AND IF WE HEAR ANYTHING, WE'LL CONTACT THE OTHER WITH THESE WALKIE-TALKIES.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, JONNY.

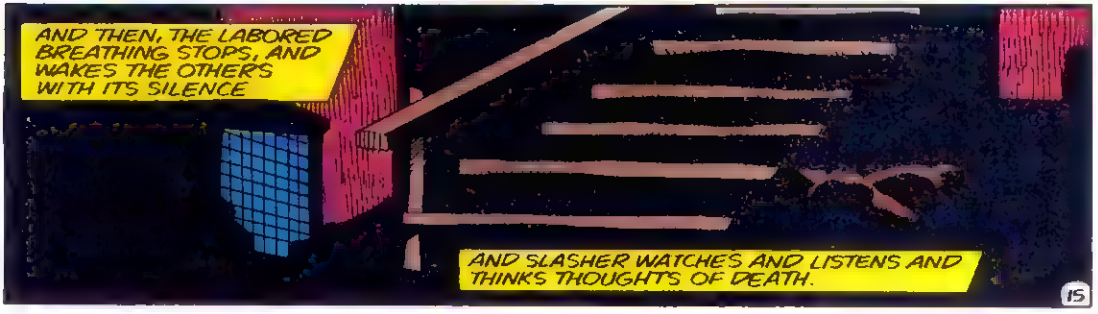

SOMEWHAT LATER, THAT SAME DAY..
BOY, DO MY FEET HURT! AND I HAVEN'T HEARD A DOG ALL DAY... JUST SOAP OPERAS, KIDS FIGHTING, AND CRYING BABIES. WONDER HOW HADJI'S DOING?
BARK! BARK!
BARKING! BUT WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
MAYBE THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING BANDIT!
NOPE. THAT LITTLE FELLA JUST WANTS TO PLAY--RIGHT, BOY? AND I ONLY HEAR ONE DOG, SO...
BARK! BARK! BARK!
THAT'S HADJI! MAYBE HE'S FOUND SOMETHING!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
HI, HADJI! WHAT'S UP?
NO LUCK, JONNY. I AM SO TIRED. I WAS SURE I HAD FOUND SOMETHING, BUT IT WAS ONLY AN OLDER COUPLE WATCHING AN OLD LASSIE MOVIE ON TV! THEN I WALKED FOR NINE BLOCKS ONLY TO FIND I WAS TRACKING A PET STORE!
IT IS ALMOST DARK, JONNY. WE CAN LOOK AGAIN TOMORROW. BUT NOW I'M HUNGRY AND THIRSTY. I'M GOING TO CATCH THE BUS AND GO HOME.
I UNDERSTAND, HADJI. TELL RACE I'LL BE HOME IN A LITTLE WHILE.
STILL LATER...
IT REALLY IS GETTING CHILLY. I HATE TO QUIT WHEN BANDIT MIGHT BE JUST AROUND THE NEXT CORNER...
...MAYBE I'LL JUST FINISH THIS BLOCK...
ARK! ARK! ARRROOOWWW! BARKK! BARKK! YIP! YIP! GRRRRR!
A BUNCH OF DOGS! AND THAT ONE SOUNDS LIKE BANDIT!
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM THAT HOUSE OVER THERE.

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT MY DOG IS LOST AND..
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY STRAYS AROUND HERE, KID. SORRY
WELL, BUT I THINK I KIND OF HEARD DOGS BARKING FROM HERE AND...
HEY! ARE YOU SAYING I TOOK YOUR DOG?
THERE'RE NO DOGS AROUND HERE, KID. NOW YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, OR I'LL CALL THE COPS!
KEEP GOING! GET OUTTA HERE! AND DON'T GO SPREADIN' LIES ABOUT ME NEITHER, OR I'LL TELL THE COPS!
BOY, I NEED PROOF OR I COULD GET IN REAL TROUBLE. BUT HE DID LIE ABOUT THE DOGS BARKING, AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN SO MAD...
...UNLESS HE HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE. AND THAT BACK FENCE WOULD KEEP PEOPLE FROM SEEING WHAT WAS IN THE BACKYARD...
HELLO, IS THIS THE HUMANE SOCIETY? CAN I SPEAK TO RICK BROWN, PLEASE?
OH...HE'S NOT? WELL, I'D LIKE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE, THEN...


THE CAGE IS WET AND COLD AND SILENT, EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL KEENING OF A SICK DOG.
SLASHER WATCHES AND LISTENS AND THINKS THOUGHTS OF DEATH.


BANDIT WATCHES THE OLD ONE TWIST AND CRY OUT. THE CRIES ARE WEAK TONIGHT--AND THE OTHERS, USED TO THE RASPING WHIMPERS, ARE ASLEEP
BANDIT CANNOT SLEEP.
THE OLD ONE SMELLS HOT, FULL OF POISON. "I MUST ESCAPE...THIS PLACE," HE SAYS. "MY LEGS... DO NOT WORK... IF I COULD GET OUT... OF HERE... COULD RUN... FAST ..
"I MUST GET TO... THE FIELDS . THE GRASS IS COOL AND WET IN THE MORNINGS...THE GEESE ARE FLYING AND. . MY PACK LEADER WILL BE THERE . WAITING FOR ME... HE WILL LAUGH .. PLAY WITH MY EARS...

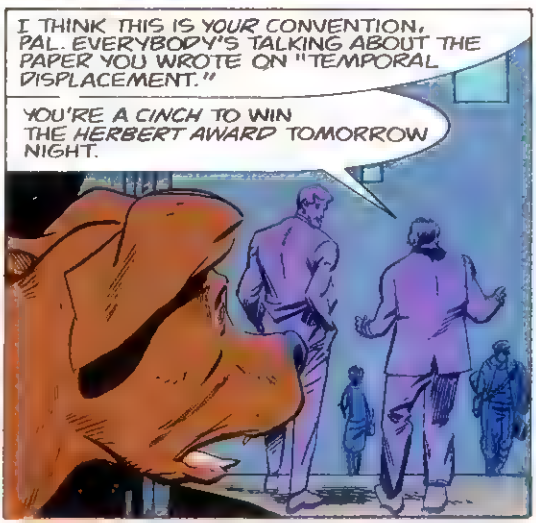

"SEE THE FIELDS? THE GRASS... IS ENDLESS... IT SMELLS OF SQUIRRELS AND MINT... GOOD PLACE...
"THE GEESE ARE FLYING... CALLING... THAT MEANS MY PACK LEADER IS WAITING FOR ME... LAUGHING .. HIDING A CHEWSTICK BEHIND HIM... 'BEST DOG,' HE SAYS. 'BESTDOG,' THE GEESE ARE... ALMOST OVER US... CAN'T YOU HEAR THEM?"
"I CAN HEAR THEM," BANDIT SAYS.

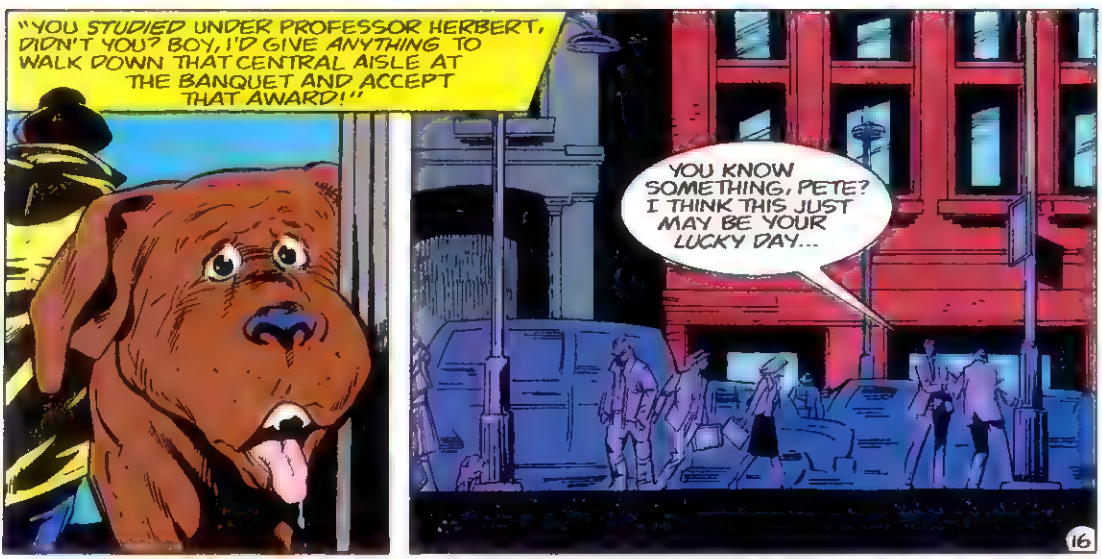

AND THEN, THE LABORED BREATHING STOPS, AND WAKES THE OTHERS WITH ITS SILENCE
AND SLASHER WATCHES AND LISTENS AND THINKS THOUGHTS OF DEATH.

I'LL TELL YOU, BENTON, THAT WAS A GREAT SEMINAR. I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT POLYMER CONVERSIONS
GLAD YOU LIKED IT, PETE. BUT IT WAS BRONSTEIN'S DATA.

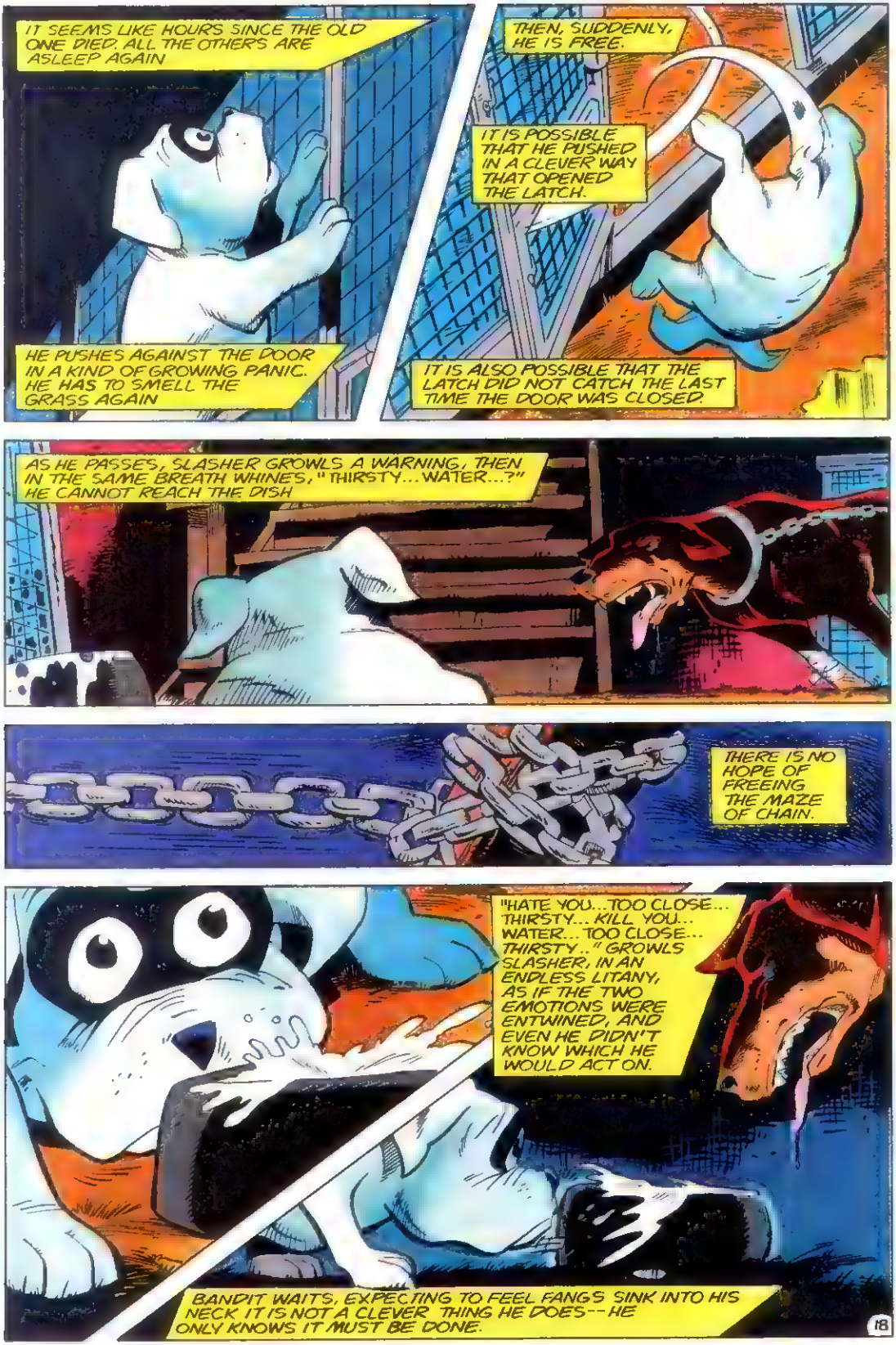
I JUST... SAY, LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT? WHERE

WHAT... THAT? IT'S JUST A LOST DOG, BENTON.
THERE MUST BE A HUNDRED STRAY MUTTS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

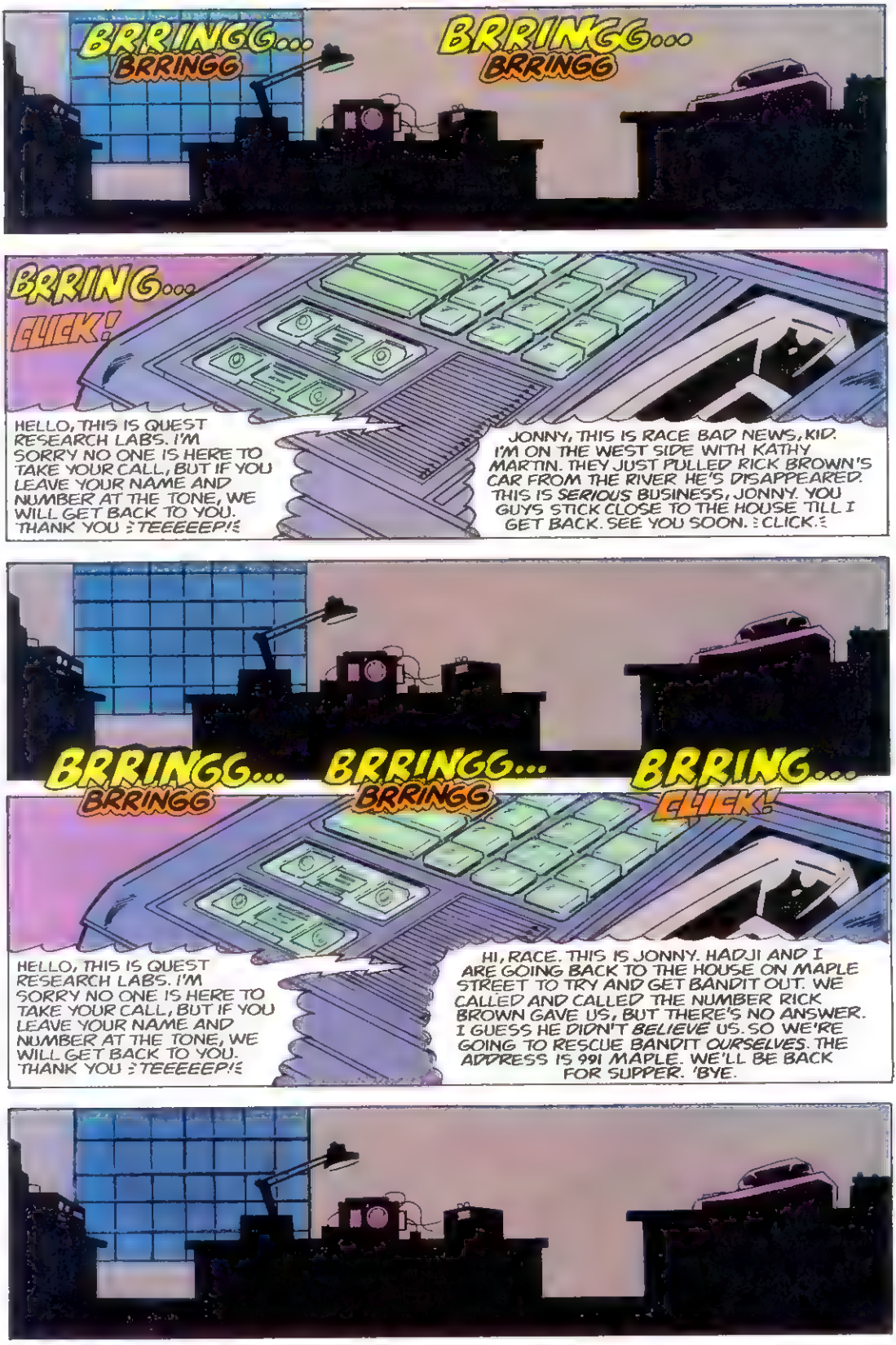

I THINK THIS IS YOUR CONVENTION, PAL. EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THE PAPER YOU WROTE ON "TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT."
YOU'RE A CINCH TO WIN THE HERBERT AWARD TOMORROW NIGHT.


"YOU STUDIED UNDER PROFESSOR HERBERT, DIDN'T YOU? BOY, I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO WALK DOWN THAT CENTRAL AISLE AT THE BANQUET AND ACCEPT THAT AWARD!"
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, PETE? I THINK THIS JUST MAY BE YOUR LUCKY DAY...

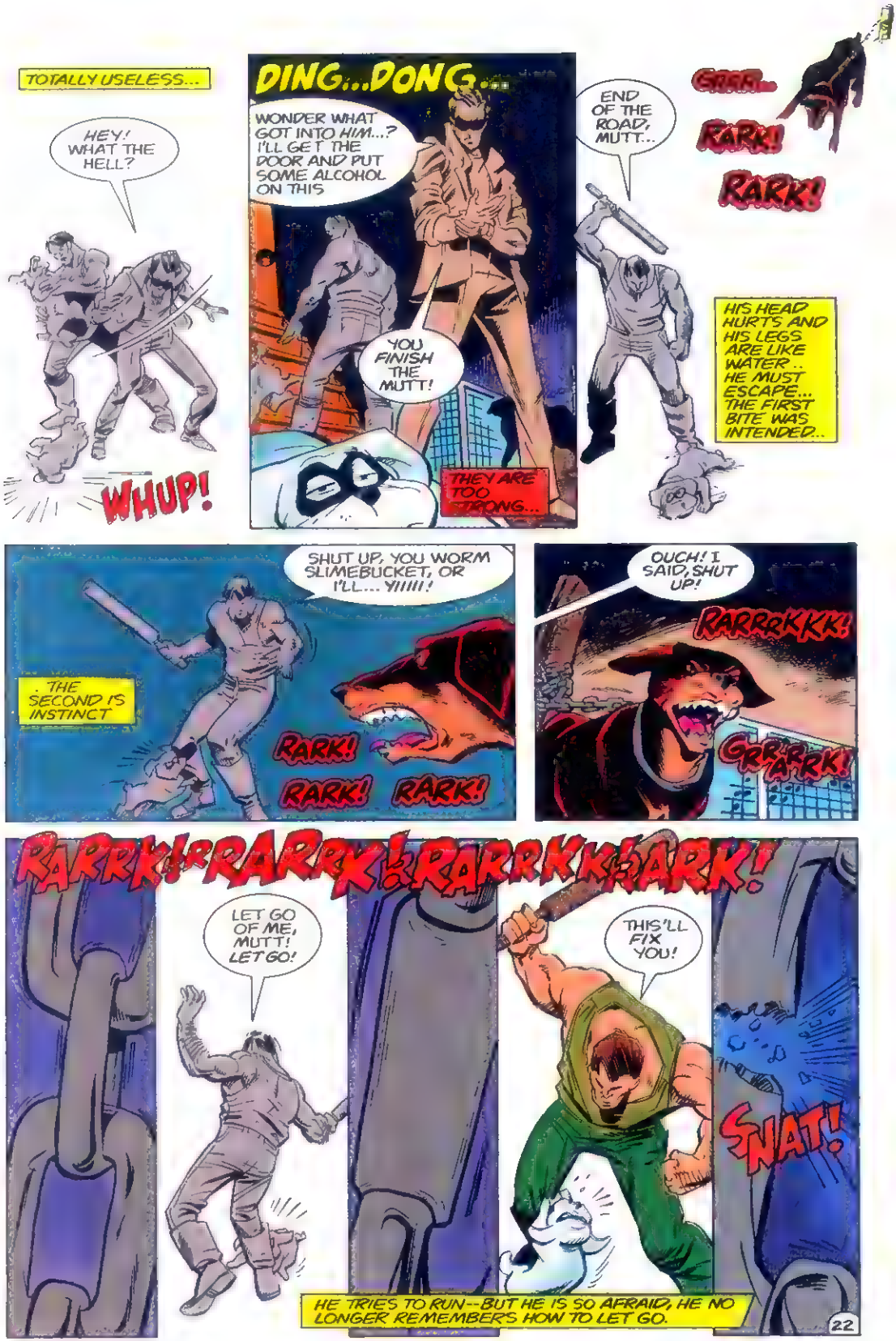
THIS IS THE HOUSE JONNY DESCRIBED. NOW IF I CAN JUST GET ENOUGH EVIDENCE FOR A WARRANT, THE POLICE CAN SEARCH THIS PLACE... OH-OH. CAR'S COMING...
YO, JEFF... DID YOU GET RID OF THAT DEAD MUTT?
SURE THING. I JUST TOSSED IT INTO THE CITY DUMP. NOBODY'LL NOTICE.
BLOODY BEN LOOKS ALL HEALED UP FOR THE FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT--EVEN THE LEG. BUT HE DON'T HAVE THAT PEP ANYMORE.
LET'S FEED HIM ONE OF THE SMALLER DOGS BEFORE THE MATCH. WE DON'T WANT HIM SLEEPWALKING!
HOW LUCKY CAN I GET? BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THEY SPOT ME!
I WANT TO RUN ONE MORE BIG FIGHT AND SPLIT. WE'VE BEEN HERE TOO LONG!
YEAH, ALMOST FOUR MONTHS! I... HEY, LOOKIT THAT!
YIPE! TIME TO GO!
I CAN'T HOLD HIM... DO SOMETHING! DO SOMETHING!
WAP
OOOOFFF!
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD'VE HIT 'IM SO HARD, MICHAELS. I THINK MEBBE HE'S DEAD!
17


IT SEEMS LIKE HOURS SINCE THE OLD ONE DIED. ALL THE OTHERS ARE ASLEEP AGAIN
HE PUSHES AGAINST THE DOOR IN A KIND OF GROWING PANIC. HE HAS TO SMELL THE GRASS AGAIN
THEN, SUDDENLY, HE IS FREE.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE PUSHED IN A CLEVER WAY THAT OPENED THE LATCH.
IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE LATCH DID NOT CATCH THE LAST TIME THE DOOR WAS CLOSED.
AS HE PASSES, SLASHER GROWLS A WARNING, THEN IN THE SAME BREATH WHINES, "THIRSTY... WATER...?" HE CANNOT REACH THE DISH
THERE IS NO HOPE OF FREEING THE MAZE OF CHAIN.
"HATE YOU... TOO CLOSE... THIRSTY... KILL YOU... WATER... TOO CLOSE... THIRSTY.." GROWLS SLASHER, IN AN ENDLESS LITANY, AS IF THE TWO EMOTIONS WERE ENTWINED, AND EVEN HE DIDN'T KNOW WHICH HE WOULD ACT ON.
BANDIT WAITS, EXPECTING TO FEEL FANGS SINK INTO HIS NECK. IT IS NOT A CLEVER THING HE DOES -- HE ONLY KNOWS IT MUST BE DONE.

THIRST WINS AND HE IS ABLE TO BREATHE AGAIN
SPLUSH!
GLUP!
GLUP!
SLASHER SMELLS OF HAIR AND SWEAT AND LINIMENT.
SNIFF
SNUFFLE
SNIFF
...AND FEAR
HE GROOMS THE WOUND AND TASTES SALT AND ALCOHOL. HE IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE MASSIVE FORM OVER HIM...THE UNSTABLE, DAMAGED BEING
WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU!
SO YOU WANNA GET AWAY, HUH? I'LL SHOW YOU RUNNING! GET BACK IN THAT CAGE!
KRASH!
SPLRSH!
YOU HEARD ME! GET IN THERE! I'LL BREAK YOUR DAMN NECK THE NEXT TIME!
YIIII!
AND WHO LEFT THIS WATER DISH IN THE WAY? MY SHOE'S SOAKED! STUPID MUTTS!
19


BRRINGG...
BRRINGG
BRRINGG...
BRRINGG
BRRING...
CLICK!
HELLO, THIS IS QUEST RESEARCH LABS. I'M SORRY NO ONE IS HERE TO TAKE YOUR CALL, BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AT THE TONE, WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU. THANK YOU :TEEEEEP!:
JONNY, THIS IS RACE. BAD NEWS, KID. I'M ON THE WEST SIDE WITH KATHY MARTIN. THEY JUST PULLED RICK BROWN'S CAR FROM THE RIVER. HE'S DISAPPEARED. THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS, JONNY. YOU GUYS STICK CLOSE TO THE HOUSE TILL I GET BACK. SEE YOU SOON. :CLICK:
BRRINGG...
BRRINGG
BRRINGG...
BRRINGG
BRRING...
CLICK!
HELLO, THIS IS QUEST RESEARCH LABS. I'M SORRY NO ONE IS HERE TO TAKE YOUR CALL, BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AT THE TONE, WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU. THANK YOU :TEEEEEP!:
HI, RACE. THIS IS JONNY. HADJI AND I ARE GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE ON MAPLE STREET TO TRY AND GET BANDIT OUT. WE CALLED AND CALLED THE NUMBER RICK BROWN GAVE US, BUT THERE'S NO ANSWER. I GUESS HE DIDN'T BELIEVE US. SO WE'RE GOING TO RESCUE BANDIT OURSELVES. THE ADDRESS IS 991 MAPLE. WE'LL BE BACK FOR SUPPER. 'BYE.

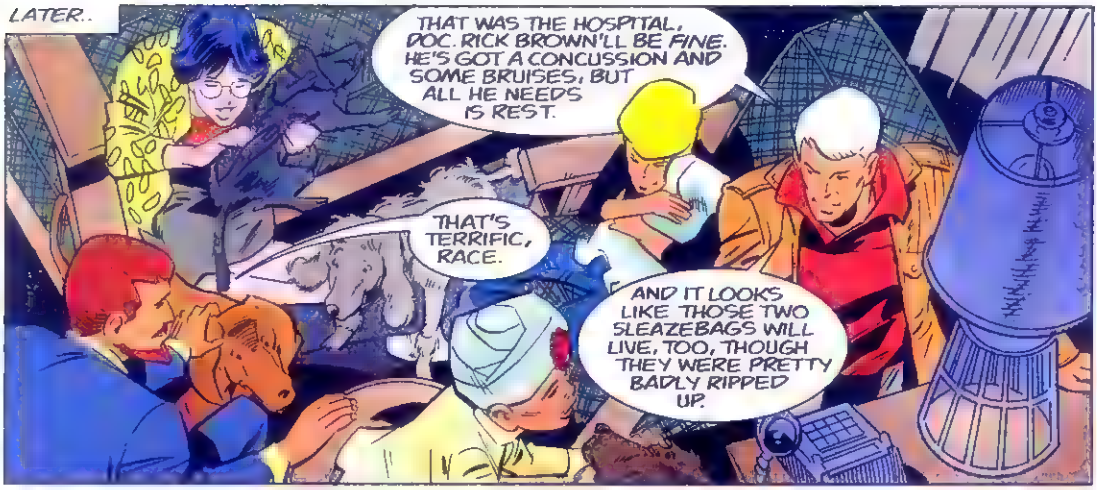
AND ELSE-WHERE..
THAT GUY'S STILL BREATHING, BUT HE DON'T LOOK SO HOT. I'M FOR GETTING OUT WHILE WE CAN.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. IF THAT GUY DIES, I WANT TO READ ABOUT IT FROM ANOTHER STATE. WE'LL GIVE THE LAST FIGHT A MISS.
GET BLOODY BEN READY TO TRAVEL I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS.
C'MON, BOY WE'RE GOING ON A RIDE
HE SMELLS THE WORRY, THE EXCITEMENT ON THE TWO MEN. IT IS A DANGEROUS SMELL.
LONGLEG IS SCREAMING, FIGHTING, BUT IT DOES NO GOOD. HUMAN MAGIC IS TOO STRONG.
SOMEWHERE, FAR AWAY FROM THIS DARK, FILTHY PLACE IS OPEN SKY-AND-GRASS, BUT THEY WILL NEVER SEE IT AGAIN. FAR AWAY HE HEARS GEESE CALLING.
AHHHHGGG!
IT IS USELESS, BUT HE DOES IT ANYWAY.
21

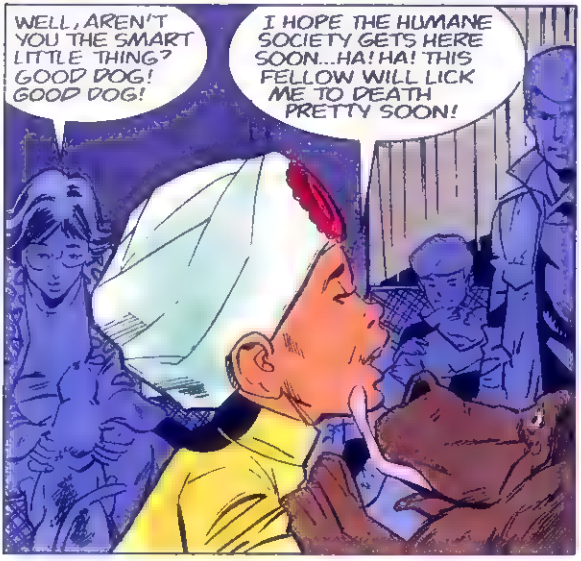

TOTALLY USELESS...
HEY! WHAT THE HELL?
WHUP!
DING...DONG...
WONDER WHAT GOT INTO HIM...? I'LL GET THE DOOR AND PUT SOME ALCOHOL ON THIS
YOU FINISH THE MUTT!
THEY ARE TOO STRONG...
END OF THE ROAD, MUTT...
GRRR...
RARK!
RARK!
HIS HEAD HURTS AND HIS LEGS ARE LIKE WATER.. HE MUST ESCAPE... THE FIRST BITE WAS INTENDED..
SHUT UP, YOU WORM SLIMEBUCKET, OR I'LL... YIIIII!
THE SECOND IS INSTINCT
RARK! RARK! RARK!
OUCH! I SAID, SHUT UP!
RARRRKKK!
GRR-ARK!
RARRK!
RARRK!
RARRKK!
ARK!
LET GO OF ME, MUTT! LET GO!
THIS'LL FIX YOU!
SNAT!
HE TRIES TO RUN--BUT HE IS SO AFRAID, HE NO LONGER REMEMBERS HOW TO LET GO.

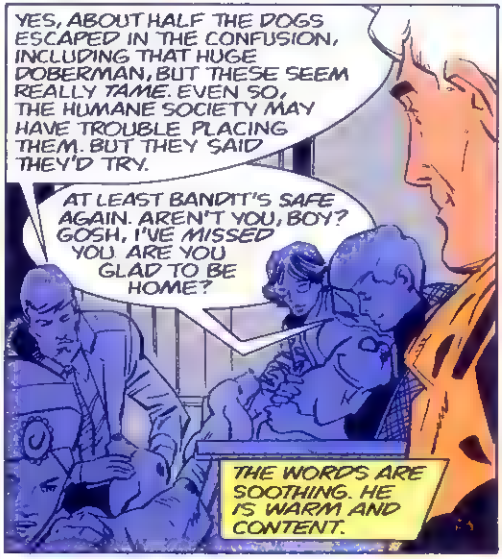
MEANWHILE
I'M NOT LEAVING HERE TILL YOU GIVE ME MY DOG BACK!
YES, WE KNOW HE IS IN THERE!
OH, YOU DO, HUH? WELL, WHO CARES? EVEN IF I HAD THE MUTT, WHO'S GOING TO LISTEN TO A COUPLE OF LOUDMOUTH KIDS?
AND EVEN IF THE COPS CAME BACK WITH YOU, THEY WON'T FIND NOTHING. AND EVEN IF I WAS ARRESTED, THEY'D GIVE ME PROBATION, LIKE ALL THE OTHER TIMES. I CAN'T LOSE!
I WON'T LEAVE-- I WON'T! GIVE ME BACK MY DOG!
OUCH! HEY, CUT IT OUT OR I'LL...
OR YOU'LL WHAT...?

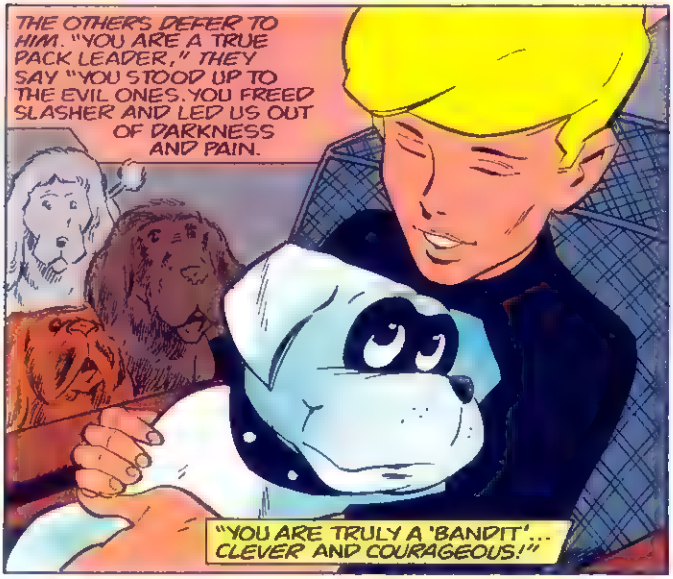
DAD!
YES--IT'S A GOOD THING I STOPPED AT THE AIRPORT TO CALL THE ANSWERING MACHINE.
ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST BREAK IN HERE THIS WAY! THIS IS MY HOUSE!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT WAS A TERRIBLE THING FOR ME TO DO. WHY DON'T YOU CALL THE POLICE?
IN FACT, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHY DON'T I CALL THE POLICE?
THEN WE CAN ALL SIT AROUND AND CHAT ABOUT STOLEN DOGS AND WHERE RICK BROWN IS AND OTHER INTERESTING THINGS.
HEY, THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT. LOOK, WE CAN MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT.. I GOT MONEY...
HA! NONE THAT I'D WANT. JONNY, WHY DON'T YOU FIND A PHONE AND THE POLICE?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON HERE...
YYAAAA!
WELL, NOW I THINK WE CAN CALL THE POLICE.

JEFF! WAS THAT YOU, JEFF? WHAT HAPPENED?
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO CUT YOUR LOSSES.
WHAT TH'...?
BANDIT!
DESPERATE TO ESCAPE THE CARNAGE BELOW, HE RUNS IN BLIND TERROR DIRECTLY INTO. .
SAFETY
I'M NOT GOING TO JAIL OVER SOME SCRUFFY MUTTS. STAY BACK! I'M WALKING OUT OF HERE. .
. AND NOBODY'S GOING TO STOP ME!
RRAARK!
GRRR!
RRRARRR!
RIKE!
SNARRL!
YAAAA
DON'T LOOK, BOYS!
25


LATER..
THAT WAS THE HOSPITAL, DOC. RICK BROWN'LL BE FINE. HE'S GOT A CONCUSSION AND SOME BRUISES, BUT ALL HE NEEDS IS REST.
THAT'S TERRIFIC, RACE.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE TWO SLEAZEBAGS WILL LIVE, TOO, THOUGH THEY WERE PRETTY BADLY RIPPED UP.


WELL, AREN'T YOU THE SMART LITTLE THING? GOOD DOG! GOOD DOG!
I HOPE THE HUMANE SOCIETY GETS HERE SOON...HA! HA! THIS FELLOW WILL LICK ME TO DEATH PRETTY SOON!


YES, ABOUT HALF THE DOGS ESCAPED IN THE CONFUSION, INCLUDING THAT HUGE DOBERMAN, BUT THESE SEEM REALLY TAME. EVEN SO, THE HUMANE SOCIETY MAY HAVE TROUBLE PLACING THEM. BUT THEY SAID THEY'D TRY.
AT LEAST BANDIT'S SAFE AGAIN. AREN'T YOU, BOY? GOSH, I'VE MISSED YOU. ARE YOU GLAD TO BE HOME?
THE WORDS ARE SOOTHING. HE IS WARM AND CONTENT.

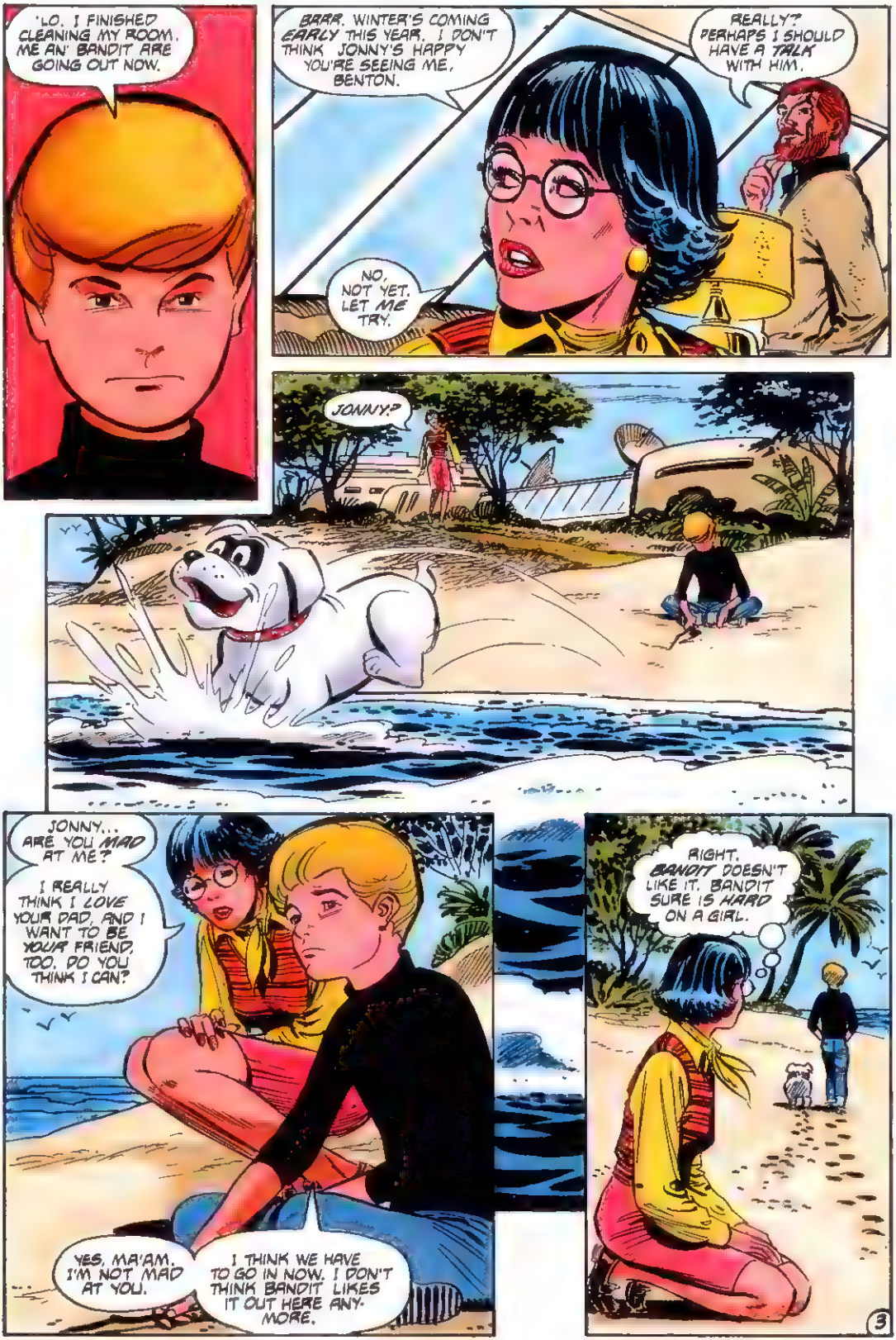

THE OTHERS DEFER TO HIM. "YOU ARE A TRUE PACK LEADER," THEY SAY "YOU STOOD UP TO THE EVIL ONES. YOU FREED SLASHER AND LED US OUT OF DARKNESS AND PAIN.
"YOU ARE TRULY A 'BANDIT'... CLEVER AND COURAGEOUS!"

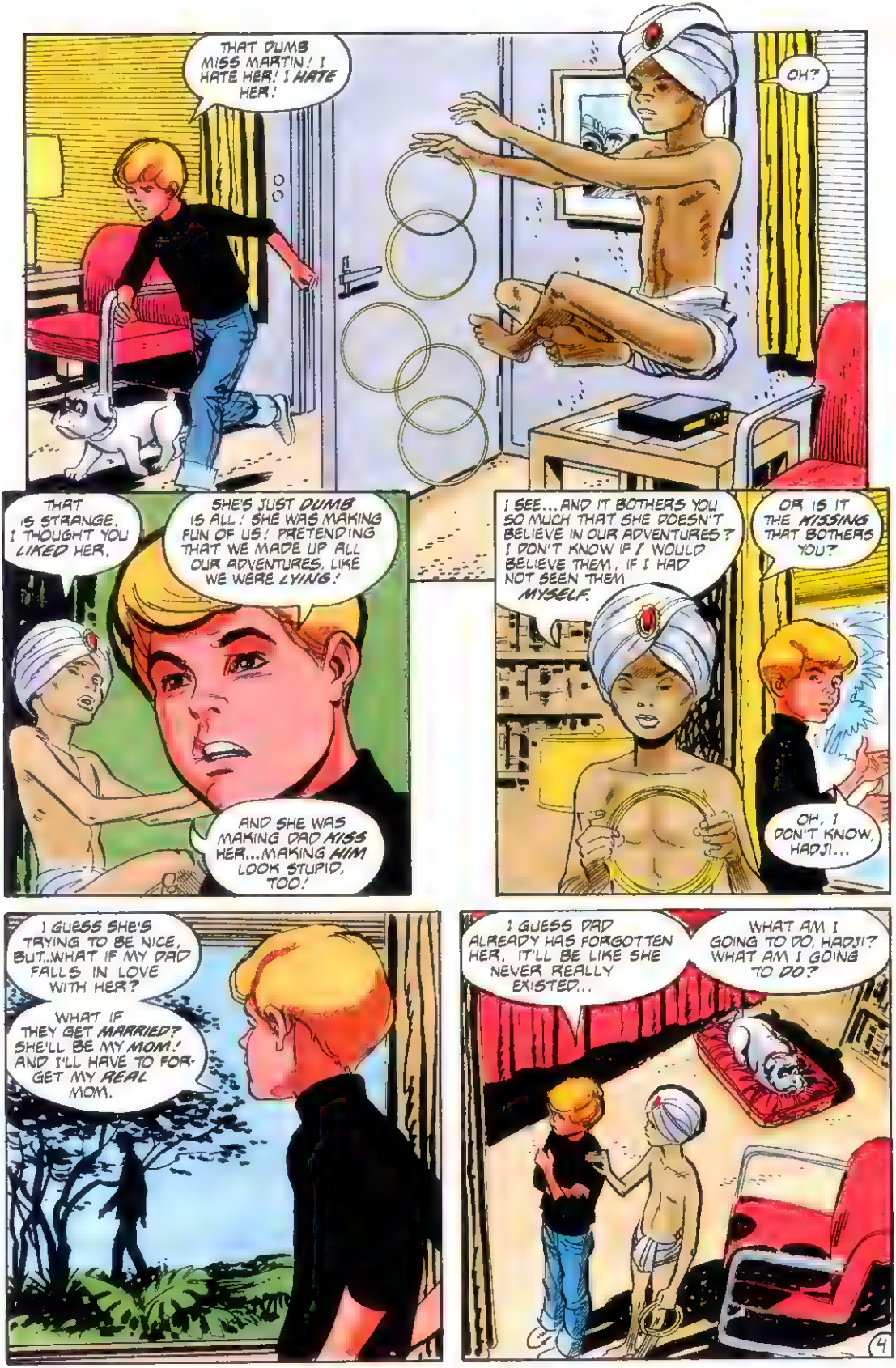
BANDIT DOES NOT REPLY, BUT SMILES DEEP WITHIN HIMSELF, FOR HE KNOWS THAT IT IS TRUE.

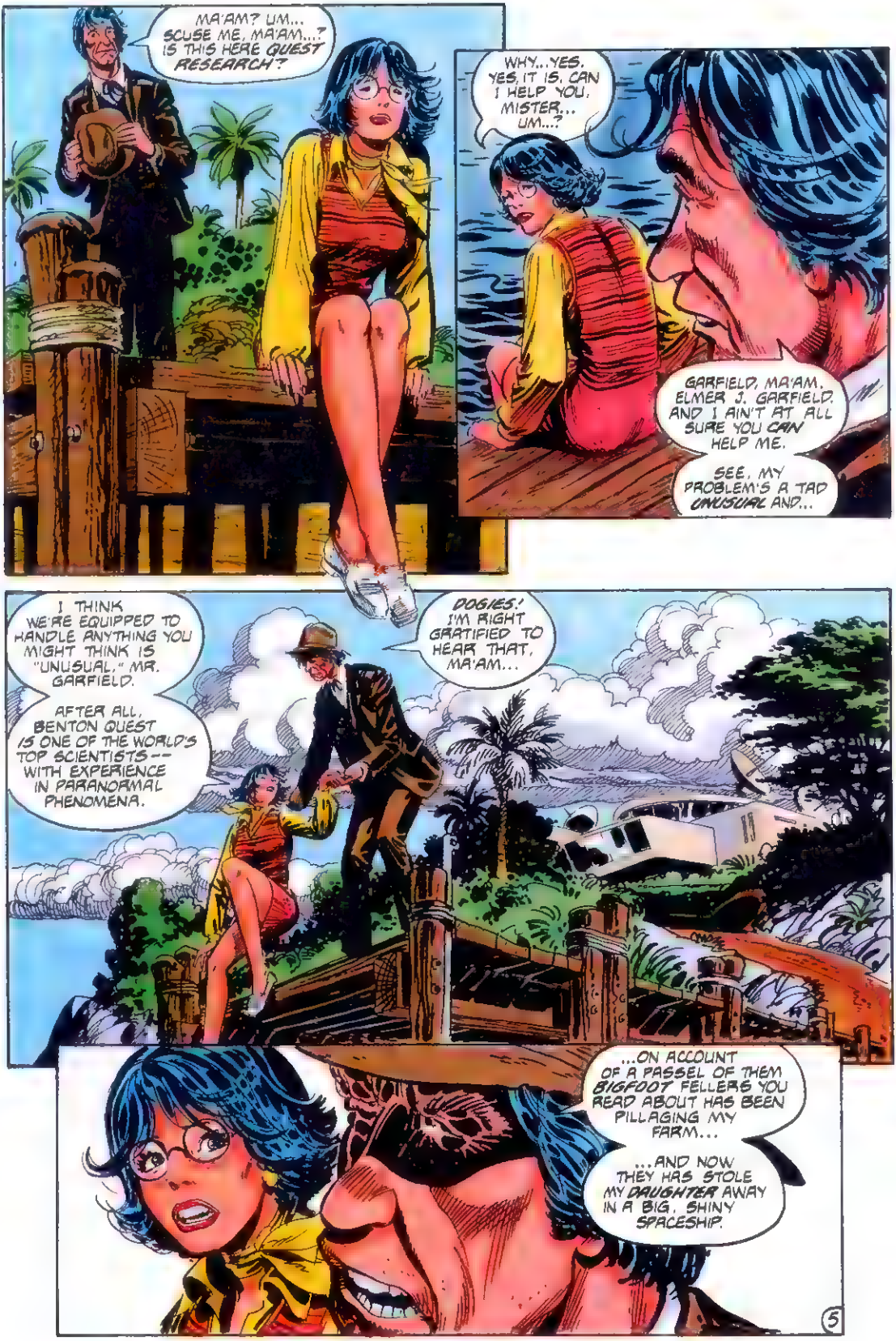
SHE RUNS, BUT SHE CANNOT SEE THE RAIN IS TOO HEAVY.
PA. PA! HELP ME!
BUT SHE CAN HEAR THE PANTHER IS RIGHT BEHIND HER.
IT FEELS AS IF SHE HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR HOURS
SHE DOESN'T DARE LOOK BACK
PA! HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME...UP!
SHE HEARS THE QUICK PADDING OF CAT FEET BEHIND HER.. CAN ALMOST FEEL THE CLAWS IN HER BACK...
NO... NO... PA! HELP!
RUMMBLLE... KRASSH!
EEEEEEEEKK!
PA!

Buried Treasure

WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS—WRITER
DAN SPIEGLE—ARTIST
CARRIE SPIEGLE—LETTERER
TOM REILLY—COLORIST
DIANA SCHUTZ—BANKER


'LO. I FINISHED CLEANING MY ROOM. ME AN' BANDIT ARE GOING OUT NOW.
BRRR. WINTER'S COMING EARLY THIS YEAR. I DON'T THINK JONNY'S HAPPY YOU'RE SEEING ME, BENTON.
REALLY? PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE A TALK WITH HIM.
NO, NOT YET. LET ME TRY.
JONNY?
JONNY... ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
I REALLY THINK I LOVE YOUR DAD, AND I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND, TOO. DO YOU THINK I CAN?
YES, MA'AM. I'M NOT MAD AT YOU.
I THINK WE HAVE TO GO IN NOW. I DON'T THINK BANDIT LIKES IT OUT HERE ANY-MORE.
RIGHT. BANDIT DOESN'T LIKE IT. BANDIT SURE IS HARD ON A GIRL.
3

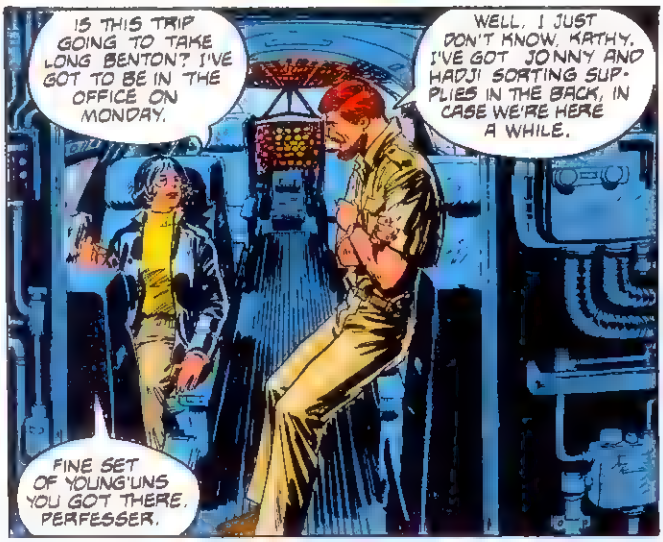

THAT DUMB MISS MARTIN! I HATE HER! I *HATE* HER!
OH?
THAT IS STRANGE. I THOUGHT YOU *LIKED* HER.
SHE'S JUST *DUMB* IS ALL! SHE WAS MAKING FUN OF US! PRETENDING THAT WE MADE UP ALL OUR ADVENTURES, LIKE WE WERE *LYING*!
AND SHE WAS MAKING DAD *MISS* HER...MAKING *HIM* LOOK STUPID, TOO!
I SEE...AND IT BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH THAT SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN OUR ADVENTURES? I DON'T KNOW IF *I* WOULD BELIEVE THEM, IF I HAD NOT SEEN THEM *MYSELF*.
OR IS IT THE *KISSING* THAT BOTHERS YOU?
OH, I DON'T KNOW, HADJI...
I GUESS SHE'S TRYING TO BE NICE, BUT...WHAT IF MY DAD FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER?
WHAT IF THEY GET *MARRIED*? SHE'LL BE MY *MOM*! AND I'LL HAVE TO FORGET MY *REAL* MOM.
I GUESS DAD ALREADY HAS FORGOTTEN HER, IT'LL BE LIKE SHE NEVER REALLY EXISTED...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, HADJI? WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
4

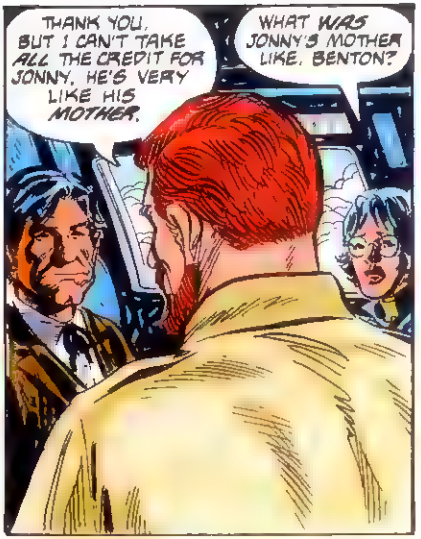

MA'AM? UM... SCUSE ME, MA'AM...? IS THIS HERE QUEST RESEARCH?
WHY...YES, YES, IT IS. CAN I HELP YOU, MISTER... UM...?
GARFIELD, MA'AM. ELMER J. GARFIELD. AND I AIN'T AT ALL SURE YOU CAN HELP ME.
SEE, MY PROBLEM'S A TAD UNUSUAL AND...
I THINK WE'RE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE ANYTHING YOU MIGHT THINK IS "UNUSUAL," MR. GARFIELD.
AFTER ALL, BENTON QUEST IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP SCIENTISTS -- WITH EXPERIENCE IN PARANORMAL PHENOMENA.
DOGIES! I'M RIGHT GRATIFIED TO HEAR THAT, MA'AM...
...ON ACCOUNT OF A PASSEL OF THEM BIGFOOT FELLERS YOU READ ABOUT HAS BEEN PILLAGING MY FARM...
...AND NOW THEY HAS STOLE MY DAUGHTER AWAY IN A BIG, SHINY SPACESHIP.
5

SAY, DOC...DO YOU HAVE THE FIGURES FOR THE MAGNETIC STABILIZERS YET? I WANT TO FEED THEM INTO THE COMPUTER ON QUEST ONE TODAY.
WHAT? OH...NO. SORRY, RACE. I'VE BEEN BROODING ABOUT KATHY AND ME. JONNY'S HAVING TROUBLE ACCEPTING OUR RELATIONSHIP.
GIVE HIM TIME, DOC. HE'LL GET OVER IT. HE'S HAD YOU ALL TO HIMSELF FOR A LONG TIME.
UNLESS... IS THAT ALL THAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
WELL... NO. KATHY...KATHY'S WONDERFUL, BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M ANY MORE READY THAN JONNY FOR THIS SORT OF CHANGE IN OUR LIVES.
BEING IN LOVE IS DISTRACTING... INEFFICIENT. AND JUST NOW MY FULL ATTENTION SHOULD BE ON MY WORK.
I CAN'T ALLOW PERSONAL FEELINGS TO INTERFERE.
RIGHT.
GOD FORBID YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY
SPEAKING AS A CONFIRMED BACHELOR, I WOULDN'T LET KATHY GET AWAY...EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TELL THE REST OF US TO GO TO BLAZES FOR A WHILE.
IF IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD IS FALLING ALL TO PIECES BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION, I'LL TELL YOU!
THANKS, RACE. YOU KNOW, YOU'RE AN AWFULLY GOOD FRIEND.
YEAH, I'M A PRINCE.
6

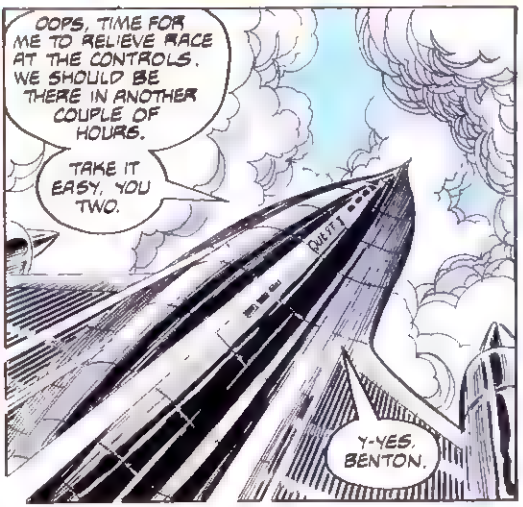
BENTON! RACE! THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THAT POOR OLD MAN OUT THERE HAS BEEN TELLING ME!
THIS IS REALLY TERRIBLE...I SHOULDN'T BE MAKING FUN OF HIM, BUT...NOW YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE NOT TO LAUGH...
KATHY! WE PROMISE! SO SPILL IT ALREADY... WHAT DID HE SAY?
WELL, HE SAYS THAT SPACE CREATURES...BIG, HAIRY SPACE CREATURES, NO LESS, ARE DESTROYING HIS FARM OUT WEST. THEY EAT HIS CROPS AND EVEN STEAL FOOD FROM HIS CELLAR.
HE CALLS THEM "BIG FEET," BUT THEY LOOK LIKE CAVE MEN AND...
CAVE MEN?
DOC! DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE...?
I'LL GET THE PLANE READY TO FLY!
RIGHT. I'LL GET THE HEAT SCANNERS, RADAR, AND ULTRASOUND!
KATHY, FIND THE BOYS AND TELL THEM TO GET PACKED! WE'RE FLYING WEST IN AN HOUR TO HUNT CAVE MEN!
I ONLY HOPE WE'RE IN TIME!
WHY DO I HAVE THE AWFUL FEELING YOU GUYS AREN'T KIDDING?

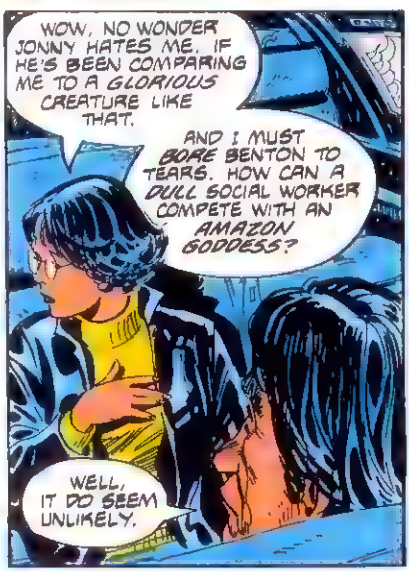
CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER.
AND YOU THINK THESE... SPACE PEOPLE TOOK YOUR DAUGHTER, MR. GARFIELD?
'T AIN'T CERTAIN PERFESSER, BUT SEEMS LIKELY. SHE DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.
I WAS AFEARED SHE'D BEEN PANTHER-ET, BUT THEN I SEEN THE MARK WHERE THET ALIEN SHIP LANDED, AND I FIGGERED SHE'D BEEN TOOK.'
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING, ARE ALL YOUR TRIPS THIS ...SPONTANEOUS, JONNY?
YEAH, I GUESS SO...
I MEAN, BOY, THEY SURE *ARE*! THEY GET *MORE* SPONTANEOUS ALL THE TIME! WE CAN HARDLY BREATHE, WE'RE RUSHING SO MUCH! I BET YOU'D JUST *HATE* IT AROUND HERE!
I SEE
IT APPEARS THAT THE LAND AROUND YOUR FARM IS MOUNTAINOUS AND HEAVILY FORESTED, MR. GARFIELD.
TRUE ENOUGH, PERFESSER. THEY'S ENOUGH TREES TO CHOKE A RIVER, AND ENOUGH MOUNTAINS TO PAVE ONE!
8


IS THIS TRIP GOING TO TAKE LONG BENTON? I'VE GOT TO BE IN THE OFFICE ON MONDAY.
WELL, I JUST DON'T KNOW, KATHY. I'VE GOT JONNY AND HADJI SORTING SUPPLIES IN THE BACK, IN CASE WE'RE HERE A WHILE.
FINE SET OF YOUNG'UNS YOU GOT THERE, PERFESSER.

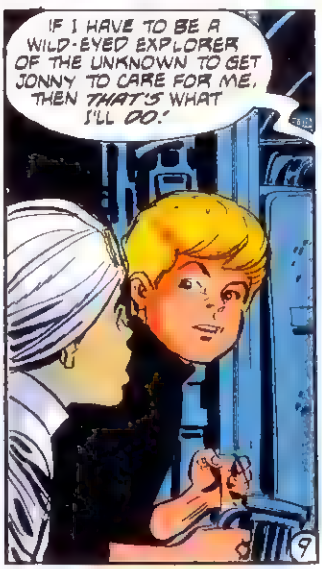

THANK YOU, BUT I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR JONNY. HE'S VERY LIKE HIS MOTHER.
WHAT WAS JONNY'S MOTHER LIKE, BENTON?

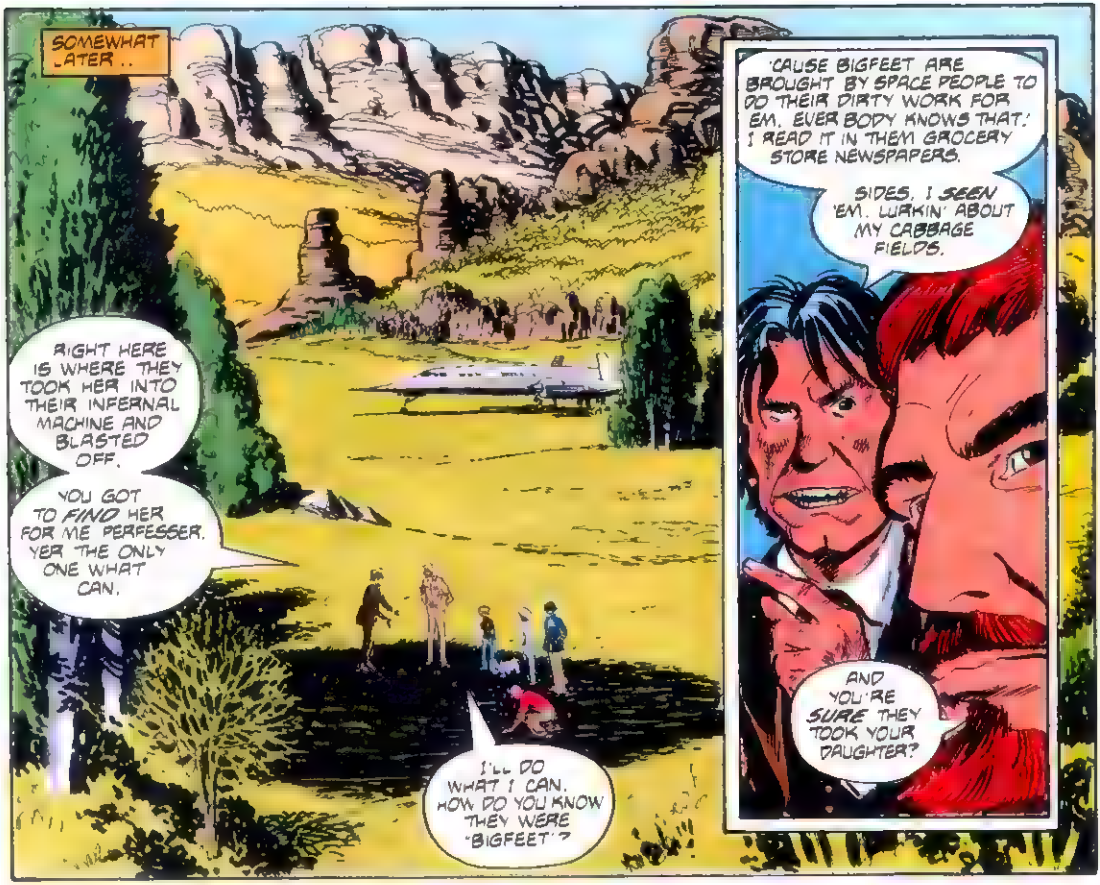
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL... WITH AN ARISTOCRATIC KIND OF BEAUTY, AND SHE WAS WILD, ALMOST RECKLESS. THERE WAS NOTHING SHE WOULDN'T TRY.
JUDY WAS SO FULL OF LIFE ...SHE'D LOVE AN ADVENTURE LIKE THIS.
SHE WAS ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT, DARING AND LOVING EVERY SECOND OF THE DANGER!


OOPS, TIME FOR ME TO RELIEVE RACE AT THE CONTROLS. WE SHOULD BE THERE IN ANOTHER COUPLE OF HOURS.
TAKE IT EASY, YOU TWO.
Y-YES, BENTON.


WOW, NO WONDER JONNY HATES ME. IF HE'S BEEN COMPARING ME TO A GLORIOUS CREATURE LIKE THAT.
AND I MUST BORE BENTON TO TEARS. HOW CAN A DULL SOCIAL WORKER COMPETE WITH AN AMAZON GODDESS?
WELL, IT DO SEEM UNLIKELY.

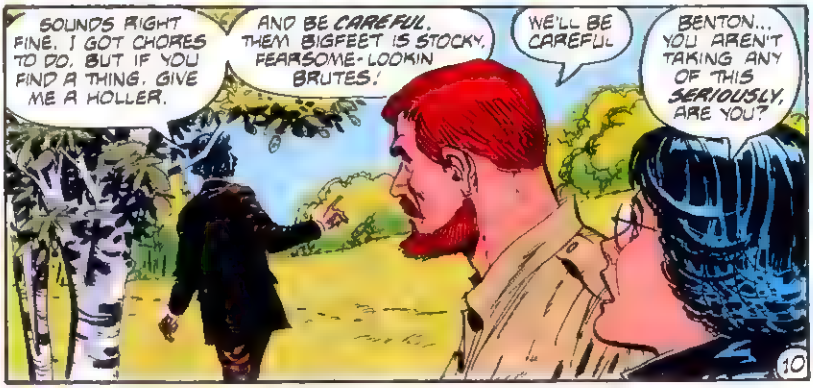
WELL, TODAY I CHANGE! IF I WANT JONNY TO ACCEPT ME OR BENTON TO BE PROUD OF ME, I HAVE TO BE THE WILDEST ADVENTURESS WHO EVER LIVED!
EXCITING! PROUD! DANGEROUS AND FREE! FROM NOW ON, I STEP TO THE FOREFRONT!


IF I HAVE TO BE A WILD-EYED EXPLORER OF THE UNKNOWN TO GET JONNY TO CARE FOR ME, THEN THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!


SOMEWHAT LATER ..
RIGHT HERE IS WHERE THEY TOOK HER INTO THEIR INFERNAL MACHINE AND BLASTED OFF.
YOU GOT TO FIND HER FOR ME PERFESSER. YER THE ONLY ONE WHAT CAN.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN. HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY WERE "BIGFEET"?
'CAUSE BIGFEET ARE BROUGHT BY SPACE PEOPLE TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK FOR EM. EVER BODY KNOWS THAT.' I READ IT IN THEM GROCERY STORE NEWSPAPERS.
SIDES, I SEEN 'EM. LURKIN' ABOUT MY CABBAGE FIELDS.
AND YOU'RE SURE THEY TOOK YOUR DAUGHTER?

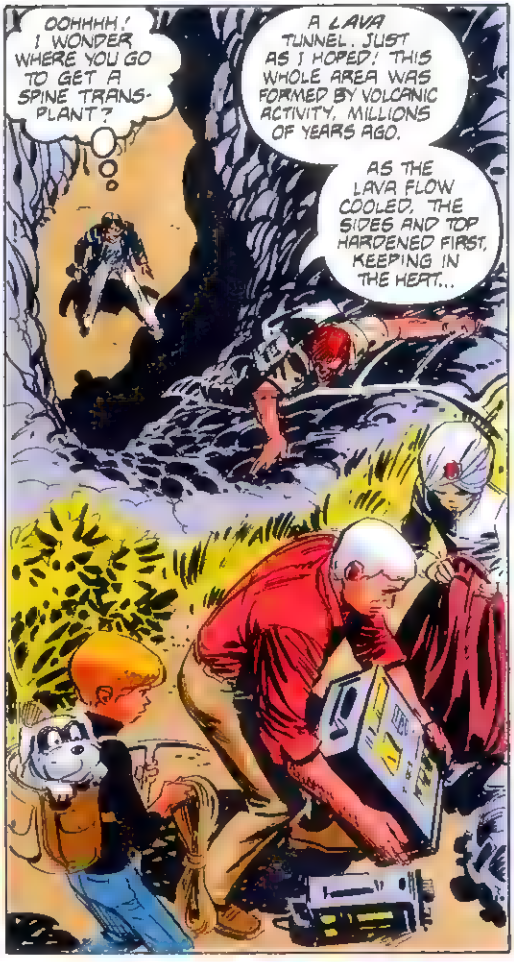
SURE, I'M SURE. ONCE I REALIZED BETSY WAS LOST IN THE STORM, I WENT AFTER HER.
AFTER A BIT, HER TRACKS MIXED WITH THEIRS AND THEN ENDED HERE, WHERE THEY TOOK OFF.

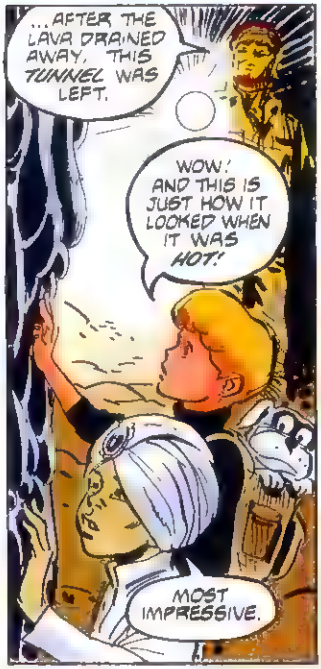
BUT I FIGGER THEY DIDN'T GO FAR 'CAUSE THEY COME HERE TO STUDY US AND LIVE AMONGST US... LIKE WARREN BEATTY AND JOAN RIVERS AND SUCH LIKE.
I SEE. WELL WHY DON'T YOU LET US DO A BIT OF INVESTIGATION? WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU SOON.


SOUNDS RIGHT FINE. I GOT CHORES TO DO. BUT IF YOU FIND A THING, GIVE ME A HOLLER.
AND BE CAREFUL. THEM BIGFEET IS STOCKY, FEARSOME-LOOKIN BRUTES.'
WE'LL BE CAREFUL
BENTON... YOU AREN'T TAKING ANY OF THIS SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU?

NOT ALL OF IT, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF TROGLODYTE SIGHTINGS IN THIS AREA, BUT NONE WAS CURRENT ENOUGH TO INVESTIGATE.
IT COULD BE FRAUD OR MASS HYSTERIA, BUT WITH LUCK WE'LL SOLVE THE MYSTERY AND FIND MR. GARFIELD'S DAUGHTER.
ONE THING'S FOR SURE... NO ROCKET MADE THIS CHARRING. IT WAS SOME KIND OF WOOD FIRE.
WHICH MEANS WHOEVER TOOK THE GIRL MUST HAVE GONE UNDERGROUND.
LET'S SPREAD OUT AND CHECK FOR FISSURES AND CAVES.
THEY'LL PROBABLY BE BRUSH-COVERED, SO BE CAREFUL. THERE ARE BEARS AND WILDCATS IN THIS BACK COUNTRY.
BEARS...? UM, I MEAN... DON'T BE SILLY, BENTON. ARE WE GOING TO LET... YULP!... BEARS SCARE US OFF?
I WOULDN'T GO SO FAST, KATHY...
OH, POO, BENTON! THIS IS A LIKELY SPOT. WATCH OUT, YOU WILDCATS! KATHLEEN AUGUSTA MARTIN IS COMING...
...THROOOOUUUGGGHHHH!!!
KRRSSSHH!
11

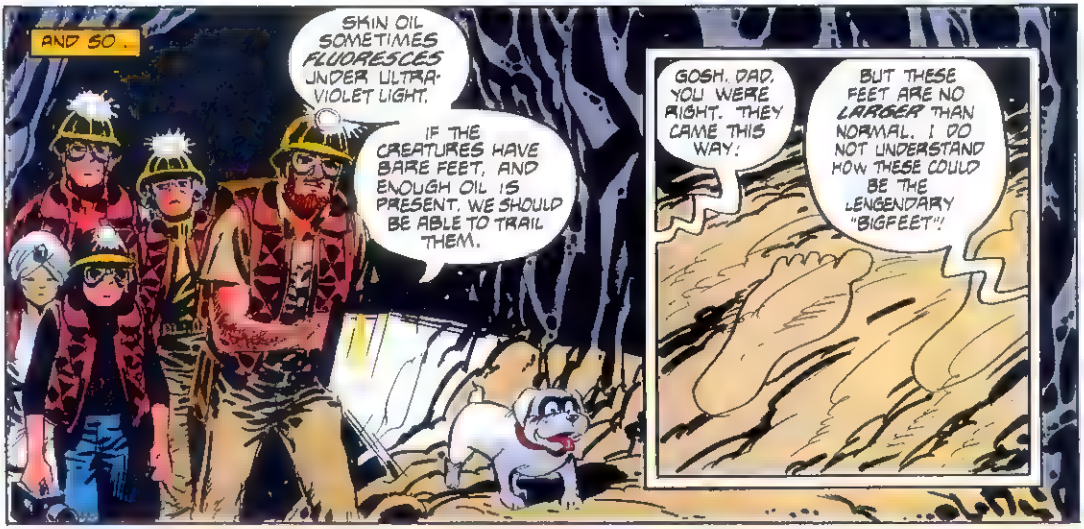
KATHY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS GIRL? ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M MADE OUT OF WHALEBONE AND SPRING STEEL.
A LITTLE FALL DOESN'T FAZE ME!


OOHHHH! I WONDER WHERE YOU GO TO GET A SPINE TRANS-PLANT?
A LAVA TUNNEL. JUST AS I HOPED! THIS WHOLE AREA WAS FORMED BY VOLCANIC ACTIVITY, MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.
AS THE LAVA FLOW COOLED, THE SIDES AND TOP HARDENED FIRST, KEEPING IN THE HEAT...


...AFTER THE LAVA DRAINED AWAY, THIS TUNNEL WAS LEFT.
WOW! AND THIS IS JUST HOW IT LOOKED WHEN IT WAS HOT!
MOST IMPRESSIVE.

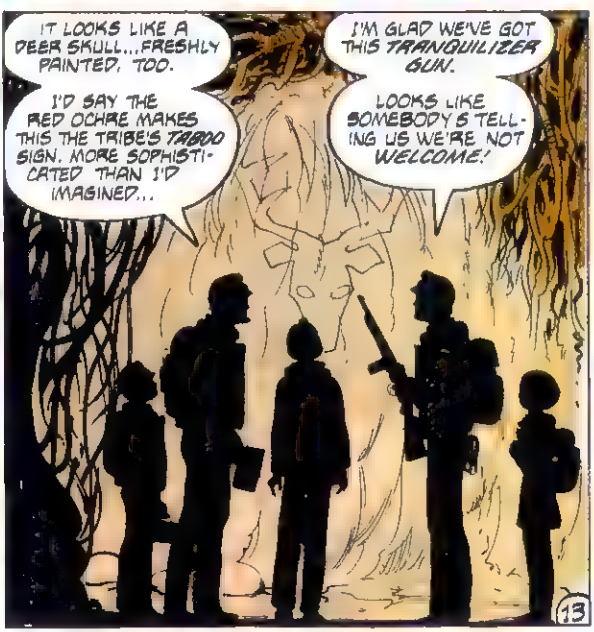
I'M HOPING TO TRACK OUR ELUSIVE FRIENDS WITH SONAR AND ULTRAVIOLET. SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW THEY'VE BEEN FOLLOWED, I HOPE...
DO YOU NEED A HAND WITH THAT, KATHY?
NO NEED, BENTON. EVERY-THING IS UNDER CON--

KRASSH!


AND SO...
SKIN OIL SOMETIMES FLUORESCES UNDER ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT.
IF THE CREATURES HAVE BARE FEET, AND ENOUGH OIL IS PRESENT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRAIL THEM.
GOSH, DAD, YOU WERE RIGHT. THEY CAME THIS WAY!
BUT THESE FEET ARE NO LARGER THAN NORMAL. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THESE COULD BE THE LEGENDARY "BIGFEET"!

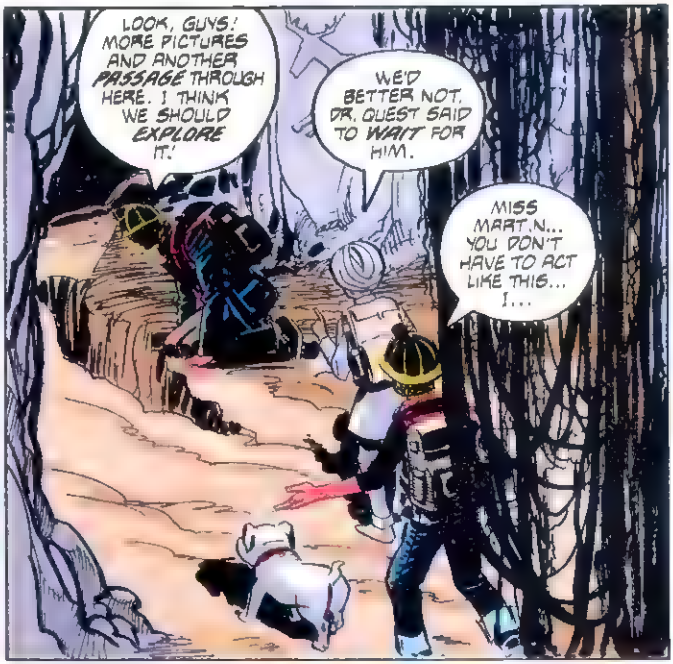
PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK THE UNKNOWN IS LARGE AND TERRIBLE, HADJI. AND MOST "BIGFOOT" PRINTS ARE SEEN IN SNOW. AS SNOW MELTS, IT ENLARGES FOOTPRINTS.
LOOK AT THESE ROOTS! THEY MUST BE TWENTY FEET LONG!

THOSE ARE THE ROOTS OF HUGE TREES ON THE SURFACE. THEY GET NOURISHMENT FROM THE MINERALS THAT DISSOLVE IN WATER, WHICH, IN TURN, LEAKS THROUGH THE BASALT.
BENTON, LOOK THERE!


IT LOOKS LIKE A DEER SKULL...FRESHLY PAINTED, TOO.
I'D SAY THE RED OCHRE MAKES THIS THE TRIBE'S TABOO SIGN. MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN I'D IMAGINED...
I'M GLAD WE'VE GOT THIS TRANQUILIZER GUN.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S TELLING US WE'RE NOT WELCOME!

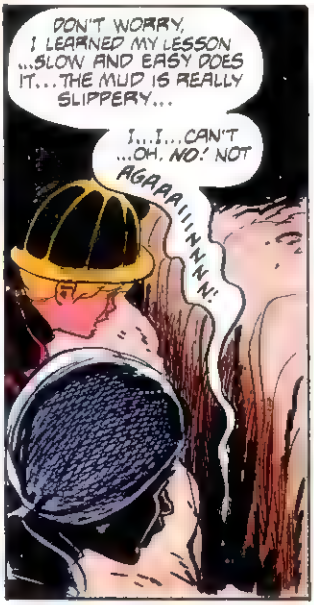
WELL, I'M NOT LISTENING.' THERE'S A JOB TO BE DONE!
I'LL SCOUT FOR TRAPS.' YOU STAY HERE!
KATHY, THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA... COME BACK HERE.' KATHY.'
NO GOOD... SHE CAN'T HEAR ME.
YOU BOYS RUN AFTER HER AND MAKE HER STAY PUT UNTIL WE GET THERE. RACE AND I WILL BE THERE AS SOON AS WE PHOTOGRAPH THIS PAINTING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH KATHY. I'M AFRAID THE STRESS HAS AFFECTED HER MIND.
OKAY, RACE, I'VE GOT THE FOCUS. NOW, MOVE THE LIGHT ABOUT 15 DEGREES YOUR WAY.
RACE, I SAID MOVE THE LIGHT... RACE? RACE?
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL GET THE LEAST SHADOW FROM THIS ANGLE, DOC.

IT HAS WORKED OUT JUST AS YOU HOPED, JONNY.
NOW YOUR FATHER THINKS KATHY IS FOOLISH AND HE WILL NEVER MARRY HER. EVERYTHING IS FINE.
YEAH, ONLY... NOW MY DAD WILL BE LONELY HIS WHOLE LIFE, AND IT'LL BE ALL MY FAULT!


LOOK, GUYS! MORE PICTURES AND ANOTHER PASSAGE THROUGH HERE. I THINK WE SHOULD EXPLORE IT!
WE'D BETTER NOT. DR. QUEST SAID TO WAIT FOR HIM.
MISS MART.N... YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE THIS... I...

OF COURSE I DO! I WAS BORN FOR THIS KIND OF LIFE...LIVING WILD AND FREE ON THE RAW EDGE OF DANGER!

AND LOVING IT! GEE, IT'S AWFUL MUDDY IN HERE...AND THE GROUND IS SLOPING DOWN...I WONDER IF THIS IS AN UNDER-GROUND RIVER...?


DON'T WORRY, I LEARNED MY LESSON ...SLOW AND EASY DOES IT...THE MUD IS REALLY SLIPPERY...
I...I...CAN'T ...OH, NO! NOT AGAAAIIINNN!

WE MUST GET DOWN TO HER!
RIGHT. I'LL DRIVE IN PITONS AND WE CAN ATTACH THE CLIMBING ROPES TO THEM!

BOY, SHE'S RIGHT... IT IS SLIPPERY. CAN YOU SEE HER, HADJI?
I DON'T KNOW...IT IS SO DARK... WAIT.
THERE SHE IS!
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS MARTIN?
SURE I AM...I'M FINE. HONEST I...OUCH.. LOVE THIS STUFF!
ON MY VACATIONS I FIND THE DEEPEST, MOST DANGEROUS MUD-PIT IN THE STATE AND GO CAMPING!
I CALL THIS FUN!
SEE THAT STONE BRIDGE? IT STARTS ON THE OTHER BANK.
IF WE CAN JUST REACH IT, WE CAN CLIMB IT, AND IT SHOULD PUT US TOPSIDE AGAIN.
IT SURE GOES UP A LONG WAY!
AND WE CAN CROSS ON THESE CONVENIENT STONES.
NOT...TOO... DIFFICULT, WHEN YOU...HAVE AN ADVENTUROUS ...KNACK...
BUT, I DO NOT THINK THOSE ARE...
...STONES.
RROARK!

HELP!
HELP!
HELP!
ROARR KK!
RRURRGHHK!
SPLURRK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OOOOOHH! EVEN MY BRUISES HAVE BRUISES...ER... NOT THAT A FEW BRUISES WORRY ME!
UM...HOW DID YOU GUYS GET ACROSS?
THERE ARE REAL STONES A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN.
OH.
I CAN SEE THE BRIDGE JUST ABOVE US.
THE SOONER WE GET STARTED, THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF THIS ...ER...WONDERFULLY EXCITING ADVENTURE!
RRRROAR!
OH MY GOD
AT LAST... GASPS...YOU BOYS LOOK... TIRED...PANTS LET'S REST HERE A MINUTE, THEN...
RRRRRR
17

WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE. I REMEMBER READING THAT IF YOU APPROACH A GROWLING BEAR BOLDLY AND SHOW NO FEAR IT'LL TURN TAIL AND RUN.
SHOO BRUNO! GO WAY! SCAT!
MISS MARTIN ...NO!
RRRRrrr!
BAD IDEA. BAD IDEA. BAD IDEA.
THIS WAY MISS MARTIN! WE MUST REACH THE CENTER OF THE BRIDGE BEFORE THE BEAR!
IT'S GAINING ON US, HADJI!
I KNOW. BUT IT MUST WEIGH A THOUSAND POUNDS! I DON'T THINK THE CENTER WILL HOLD IT!
YULP! I WAS RIGHT!
GRRAA
ARNND-
KRRS-CH-K

WELL, SO MUCH FOR THE BEAR.
I-AM-HAVING-FUN. I-AM-HAVING-FUN.
MISS MARTIN... PLEASE DON'T DO THIS ANYMORE. YOU'RE GOING TO KILL YOUR-SELF.
BUT, JONNY ...I LIKE THIS
NO YOU DON'T. WE HEARD YOU TALKING ON THE PLANE. WE DIDN'T MEAN TO BUT WE DID.
YOU'RE JUST DOING THIS 'CAUSE I WAS SO MAD AND STUPID... TRYING TO MAKE ME LIKE YOU...
JONNY...?...
SPLISHHH!
B-BUT I DID LIKE YOU... IT'S JUST... THE MORE MY DAD LOVES YOU THE MORE HE FORGETS MY MOM... AND I WAS AFRAID I'D HAVE TO FORGET HER, TOO...
OH, JONNY..
GET YR PAWS OFF ME Y DAMN HAIRY SPACE-HEATHEN!
19

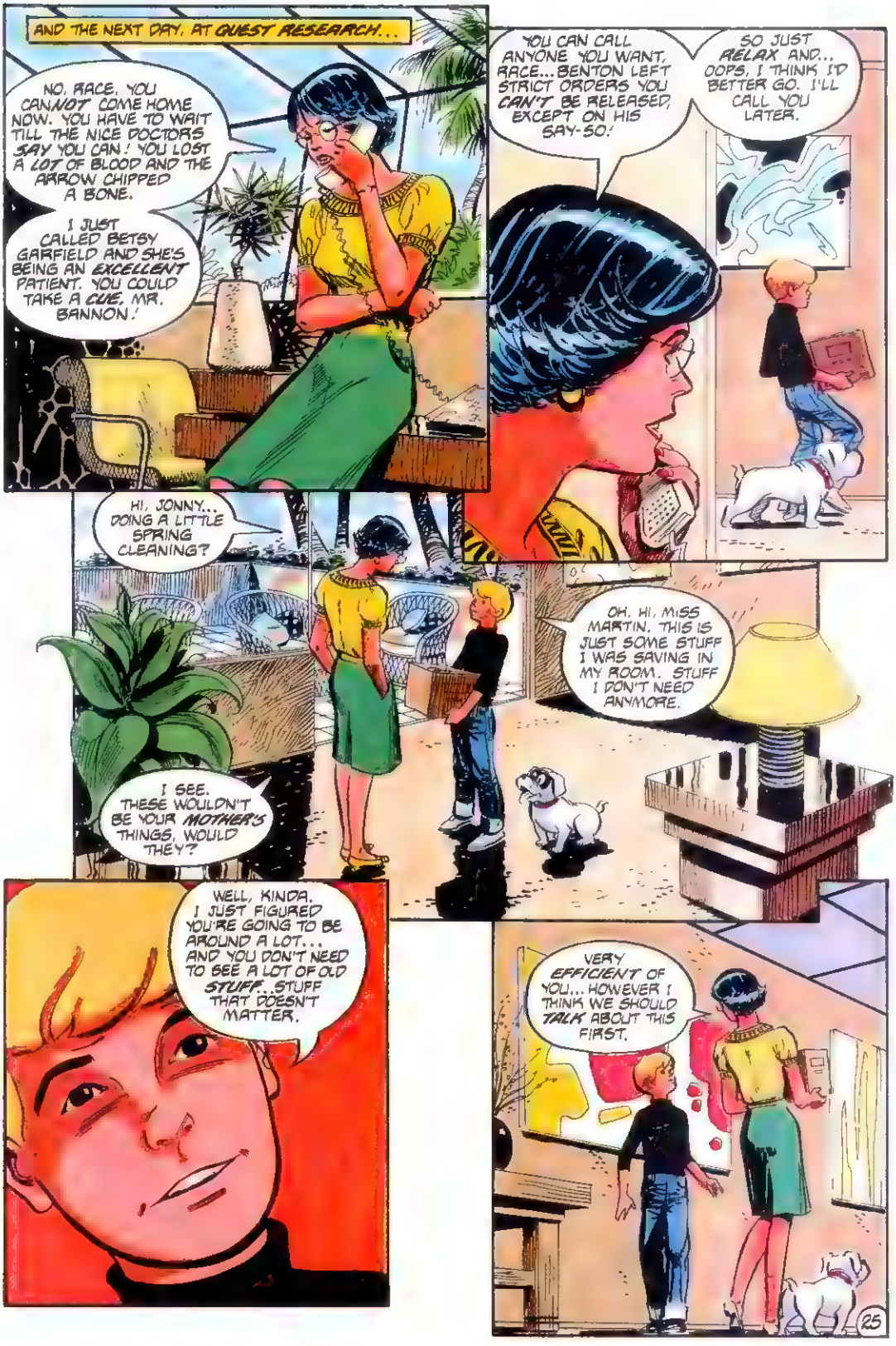
I SAID LEGGO O' ME AND BRING ME MY DAUGHTER, OR I'LL SEND FER THE MARINES T'BLOW YER SAUCERS OUT OF THE SKY!
I KNOWED YOU WAS CAPTURED BY THESE YAHOOS. THAT'S WHY I SET MYSELF ON FINDING YOU.
WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY FOUND US... RACE? ARE YOU STILL WITH US, PAL?
SURE, DOC...NEVER BETTER...
UH, DOC? IF YOU'VE GOT ANY SCIENTIFIC MIRACLES UP YOUR SLEEVE... THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO USE THEM...
SORRY, OLD FRIEND. I'M FRESH OUT OF MIRACLES.
LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO, THEN.
KATHY!

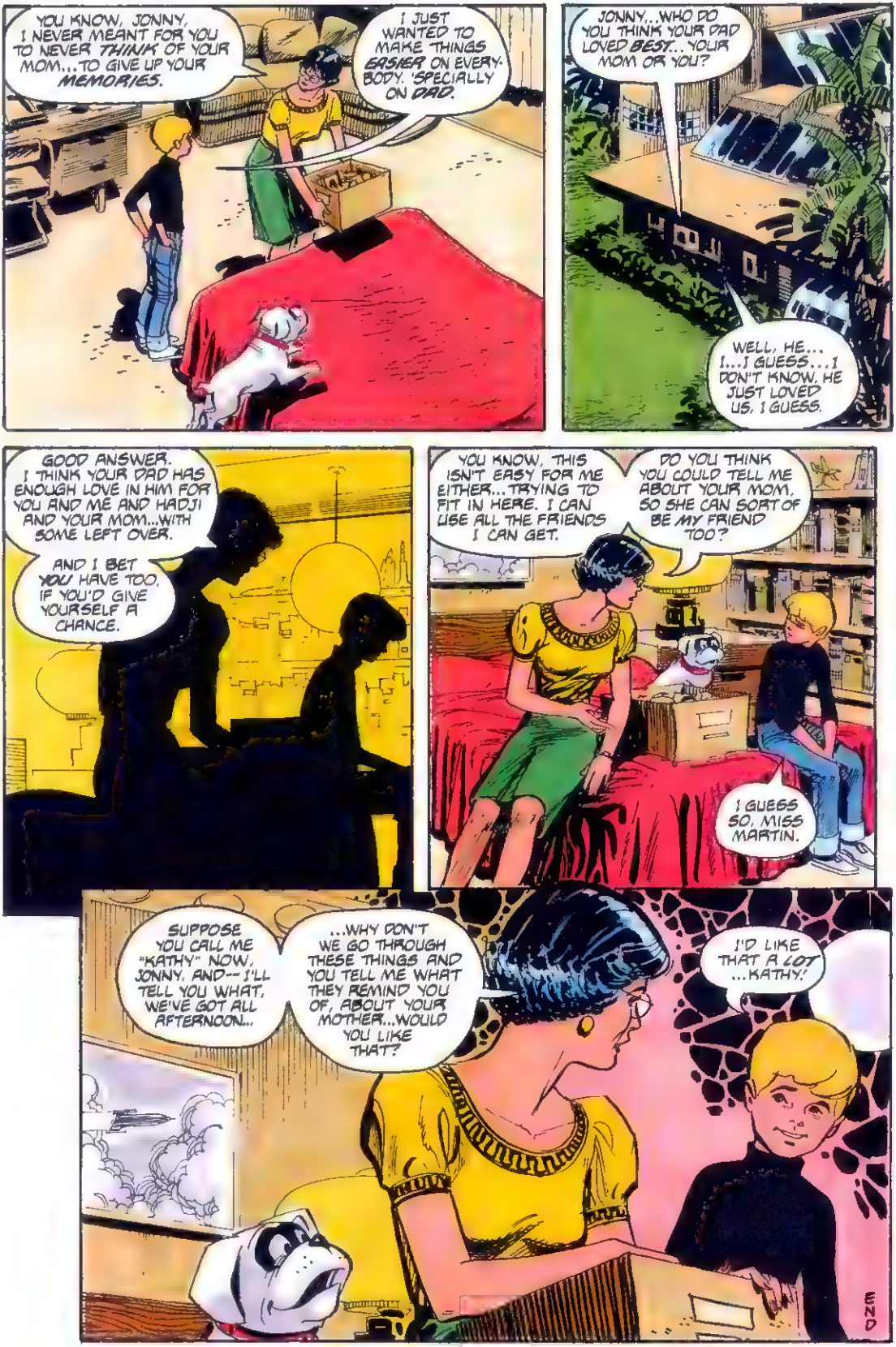
RUN, KATHY! GO GET HELP!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, BENTON? WHAT HAPPENED TO RACE?
HE WAS SHOT, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS CARRYING THE TRANQUILIZER RIFLE.
THEY KNOW ABOUT GUNS, APPARENTLY.
BUT WHO ARE THEY? HOW DID THEY GET DOWN HERE?
THEY SEEM TO BE A TRIBE OF WANDERING NEANDERTHALS. BASICALLY UNCHANGED FROM 10,000 YEARS AGO.
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THESE NORTHERN WOODS FOR CENTURIES.
THEN, AS CIVILIZATION GREW CLOSER, THEY MOVED UNDERGROUND.
THEY PROBABLY ONLY COME OUT TO HUNT, GIVING RISE TO LEGENDS ABOUT THE SASQUATCH AND BIG-FOOT. I WONDER IF THERE ARE OTHER TRIBES AS WELL?
ACTUALLY, THE WHOLE SITUATION IS FASCINATING. WE CAN LEARN SO MUCH FROM THEM.
YES, ASSUMING THEY DON'T EAT US FIRST!
21

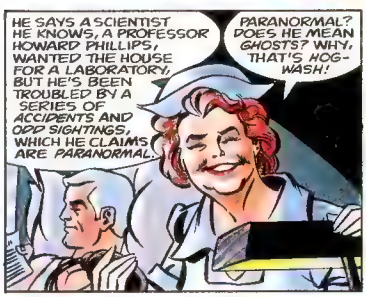
HADJI? CAN YOU USE YOUR POWER TO FLY OR SHOOT OFF FIREWORKS OR SOMETHING? MAYBE WE CAN SCARE THEM OFF.
I HAVE BEEN TRYING. NOTHING WORKS. MAYBE THE SHAMAN HAS POWERS STRONGER THAN MINE!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! GET A ROCK...WE'LL THROW THEM, IF IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE CAVE MEN ARE GOING TO CHARGE!
THEY... DON'T SEEM TO BE THREATENING.
THEY SEEM CONFUSED. THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH US. NOW THAT THEY HAVE US.
BUT THEY GOT MY LITTLE GIRL. BETSY! BETSY! WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M HERE, PA!
YOU SHOULDN'T YELL AT THEM, PA. THEY BEEN AWFUL GOOD TO ME. THEY SAVED ME FROM THE PANTHER AND THE STORM, AND TOOK CARE OF ME SINCE.
I THINK THEY'RE SCARED YOU'RE GONNA HURT ME.

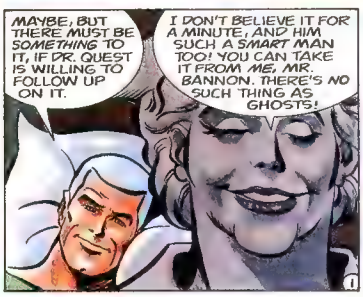
THEY HAVEN'T HURT YOU, BETSY?
OH, NO. BUT I CUT MY LEG RUNNING FROM THE PANTHER. NOW IT'S ALL SWELLED UP AND HURTS DREADFUL.
IT'S A STAND-OFF, THEN. THEY CAN'T HELP HER, AND THEY WON'T LET US NEAR HER. THEIR PROTECTION MAY VERY WELL KILL HER!
BUT THEY MUST KNOW SHE NEEDS HELP.. BENTON, I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING. IF IT DOESN'T WORK...I LOVE YOU.
KATHY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THEY CAN SEE I'M UNARMED. I JUST HAVE TO TRUST THEY WON'T ATTACK ME.
THAT'S WHAT YOU LEARN AS A SOCIAL WORKER, BENTON.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TRUST PEOPLE... AND SOMETIMES THEY DON'T LET YOU DOWN.
HI, BETSY. MY NAME'S KATHY. I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU HOME NOW, OKAY?
OKAY.
23

THE FIRST THING WE'RE GOING TO DO IS HAVE DR. QUEST TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR LEG.
IS HE A REAL DOCTOR?
GET READY, HADJI! THIS IS IT!
YES, SWEETHEART. HE'S A REAL DOCTOR!
WHEW!

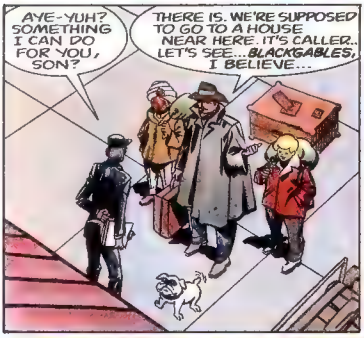

AND THE NEXT DAY, AT GUEST RESEARCH...
NO, RACE, YOU CANNOT COME HOME NOW. YOU HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE NICE DOCTORS SAY YOU CAN! YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD AND THE ARROW CHIPPED A BONE.
I JUST CALLED BETSY GARFIELD AND SHE'S BEING AN EXCELLENT PATIENT. YOU COULD TAKE A CUE, MR. BANNON!
YOU CAN CALL ANYONE YOU WANT, RACE... BENTON LEFT STRICT ORDERS YOU CAN'T BE RELEASED, EXCEPT ON HIS SAY-SO!
SO JUST RELAX AND... OOPS, I THINK I'D BETTER GO. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
HI, JONNY... DOING A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING?
OH, HI, MISS MARTIN. THIS IS JUST SOME STUFF I WAS SAVING IN MY ROOM. STUFF I DON'T NEED ANYMORE.
I SEE. THESE WOULDN'T BE YOUR MOTHER'S THINGS, WOULD THEY?
WELL, KINDA. I JUST FIGURED YOU'RE GOING TO BE AROUND A LOT... AND YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE A LOT OF OLD STUFF... STUFF THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
VERY EFFICIENT OF YOU... HOWEVER I THINK WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS FIRST.
25


YOU KNOW, JONNY, I NEVER MEANT FOR YOU TO NEVER THINK OF YOUR MOM...TO GIVE UP YOUR MEMORIES.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THINGS EASIER ON EVERYBODY. 'SPECIALLY ON DAD.
JONNY...WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR DAD LOVED BEST... YOUR MOM OR YOU?
WELL, HE... I...I GUESS...I DON'T KNOW. HE JUST LOVED US, I GUESS.
GOOD ANSWER. I THINK YOUR DAD HAS ENOUGH LOVE IN HIM FOR YOU AND ME AND HADJI AND YOUR MOM...WITH SOME LEFT OVER.
AND I BET YOU HAVE TOO, IF YOU'D GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE.
YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER...TRYING TO FIT IN HERE. I CAN USE ALL THE FRIENDS I CAN GET.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOM, SO SHE CAN SORT OF BE MY FRIEND TOO?
I GUESS SO, MISS MARTIN.
SUPPOSE YOU CALL ME "KATHY" NOW, JONNY, AND-- I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, WE'VE GOT ALL AFTERNOON...
...WHY DON'T WE GO THROUGH THESE THINGS AND YOU TELL ME WHAT THEY REMIND YOU OF, ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
I'D LIKE THAT A LOT ...KATHY.
END





JONNY QUEST #13, June 1987. Published by **COMICO The Comic Company,** 1547 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA 19401.
Jonny Quest and the distinctive likenesses herein are © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. All other material, unless otherwise specified, is © 1987 Comico The Comic Company. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication and those of any existing or pre-existing person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. **JONNY QUEST** is published monthly in the U.S.A.



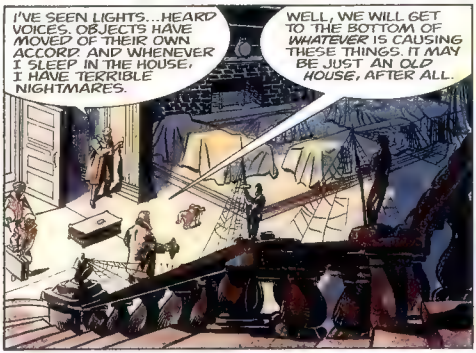
THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!

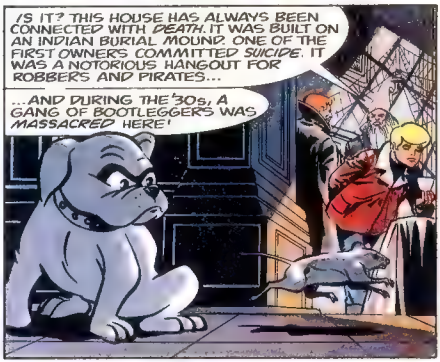
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS writer
CARMINE INFANTINO artist
ADAM KUBERT colorist
BOB ALMOND letterer
DIANA SCHUTZ editor

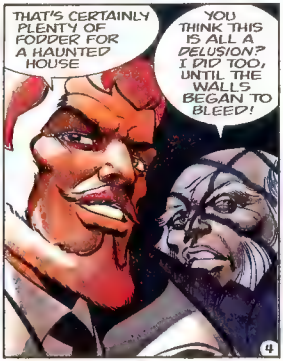
UMM...BLACKGABLES, YOU SAY? SORRY... I NEVER HEARD OF...THAT IS, I THINK I HEARD MY PHONE RINGING...GOT TO GO... UH, 'BYE...!
NOW, THERE'S A MAN WHO'S SEEN TOO MANY TWILIGHT ZONE EPISODES!
BENTON! BENTON QUEST!
LOOK, DR. QUEST. SOMEONE IS COMING!
IT'S PROFESSOR PHILLIPS! HELLO, PROFESSOR!
YOU CAME! HOW WONDERFUL! AND THESE ARE YOUR BOYS?
YES, THIS IS JONNY, MY SON, AND HADJI, MY WARD.
BOYS, PROF. PHILLIPS WAS THE BEST TEACHER IN THE UNIVERSITY.
THESE MUST BE THE SUPPLIES I ASKED FOR... WONDERFUL! I'M SORRY I DON'T HAVE A CAR, BUT THE HOUSE IS THIS WAY
ARE THERE REALLY GHOSTS, PROFESSOR?
OH, YES, INDEED. WHEN I BOUGHT BLACKGABLES, I THOUGHT I'D HAVE A QUIET PLACE IN THE COUNTRY TO RELAX, EXPERIMENT, AND REFLECT.
PARKING
BUT WHEN THE ACCIDENTS BEGAN, I SOON REALIZED I WAS IN THE GRIP OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
WOW!
3

THERE IT IS... BLACKGABLES. THEY CALL IT THE DEVIL'S MANSE AROUND HERE.
GOSH, IT DOESN'T LOOK SCARY.

TRUE, BUT ITS *HISTORY* IS SCARY ENOUGH. I HEARD THE OLD LEGENDS WHEN I MOVED IN, BUT I PAID NO MIND...THE GREATER FOOL ME!
WHAT SORT OF *MANIFESTATIONS* HAVE YOU SEEN, PROFESSOR?


I'VE SEEN LIGHTS...HEARD VOICES. OBJECTS HAVE MOVED OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. AND WHENEVER I SLEEP IN THE HOUSE, I HAVE TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES.
WELL, WE WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF *WHATEVER* IS CAUSING THESE THINGS. IT MAY BE JUST AN OLD HOUSE, AFTER ALL.


IS IT? THIS HOUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONNECTED WITH *DEATH*. IT WAS BUILT ON AN INDIAN BURIAL MOUND. ONE OF THE FIRST OWNERS COMMITTED *SUICIDE*. IT WAS A NOTORIOUS HANGOUT FOR ROBBERS AND PIRATES...
...AND DURING THE '30s, A GANG OF BOOTLEGGERS WAS *MASSACRED* HERE!


THAT'S CERTAINLY PLENTY OF FODDER FOR A HAUNTED HOUSE.
YOU THINK THIS IS ALL A *DELUSION*? I DID TOO, UNTIL THE WALLS BEGAN TO BLEED!

AND YOU SAID THERE WERE ACCIDENTS?
YES. FLOORBOARDS BUCKLE UNDERFOOT... BOOKCASES FALL OVER ON ME... AND THREE DAYS AGO A KNIFE BURIED ITSELF IN MY PILLOW, ONLY INCHES FROM MY THROAT!
DID YOU NOT GO TO THE POLICE?
AND TELL THEM WHAT? I HAVE NO PROOF... THE DAGGER FADED BEFORE MY EYES. I SCARCELY BELIEVE IT MYSELF... AND YET THE LAST THREE OWNERS OF THIS HOUSE EITHER RAN AWAY OR WENT MAD! I DON'T INTEND TO BE NEXT.
BENTON, DO YOU REMEMBER A PAPER YOU ONCE WROTE, POSTULATING THAT ECTOPLASM, THE RAW STUFF OF GHOSTS, COULD BE DISPERSED WITH ULTRASOUND?
YES, BUT THAT WAS ONLY A THEORY...
HELP ME BUILD SUCH A MACHINE! WE CAN FREE THIS HOUSE OF ITS CURSE AND REMOVE MANKIND'S FEAR OF GHOSTS FOREVER!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, PROFESSOR, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT I THINK OUR FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO GIVE THIS OLD PLACE A GOOD CLEANING, AND TRY TO GET THE ELECTRICITY WORKING AGAIN.
AGREED! THERE ARE BEDS FOR ALL OF US UPSTAIRS, AND WE'LL GET A FRESH START FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
COME ON, BANDIT. LET'S SEE WHAT OUR ROOM LOOKS LIKE.
YES, IT WILL BE GOOD TO SLEEP AFTER THAT LONG TRAIN RIDE.

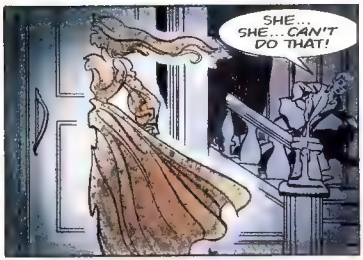
BOY, IT'S GONNA BE A LOT OF WORK TO CLEAN UP THAT OLD PLACE. I GUESS WE SHOULD GET STARTED
I WONDER WHERE EVERYBODY IS... HADJI! DAD! EVEN BANDIT IS MISSING!
HEY! THERE'S SOMEBODY UP THERE!
IT'S A MONSTER! THAT MUST BE WHAT'S BEEN SCARING EVERYBODY! I'VE GOTTA GET HELP!
IT SEES ME! I'VE GOT TO FIND DAD!
DAD! HADJI! HELP! THE MONSTER'S RIGHT BEHIND ME!
I'M NOT YOUR FATHER! YOUR FATHER'S DEAD! HAHAHAHA!

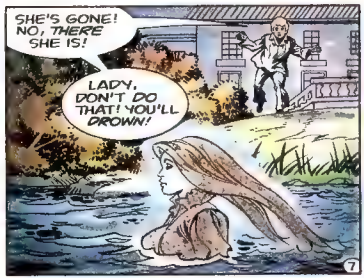
DAD! OH, IT WAS A DREAM! IT SURE SEEMED REAL, THOUGH.

THAT'S STRANGE... I NEVER SAW HER BEFORE. HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

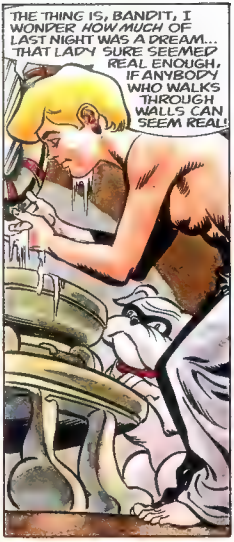
THAT'S FUNNY.. SOMEBODY'S MOVING AROUND OUT THERE! WONDER WHO IT IS...?

WAIT A SECOND! COME BACK HERE!

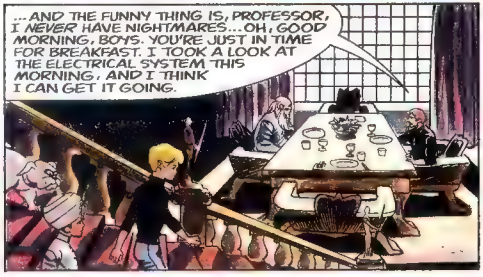

SHE... SHE... CAN'T DO THAT!


SHE'S GONE! NO, THERE SHE IS!
LADY, DON'T DO THAT! YOU'LL DROWN!

YOU'LL DROWN! OHHHH, IT WAS ANOTHER DREAM!

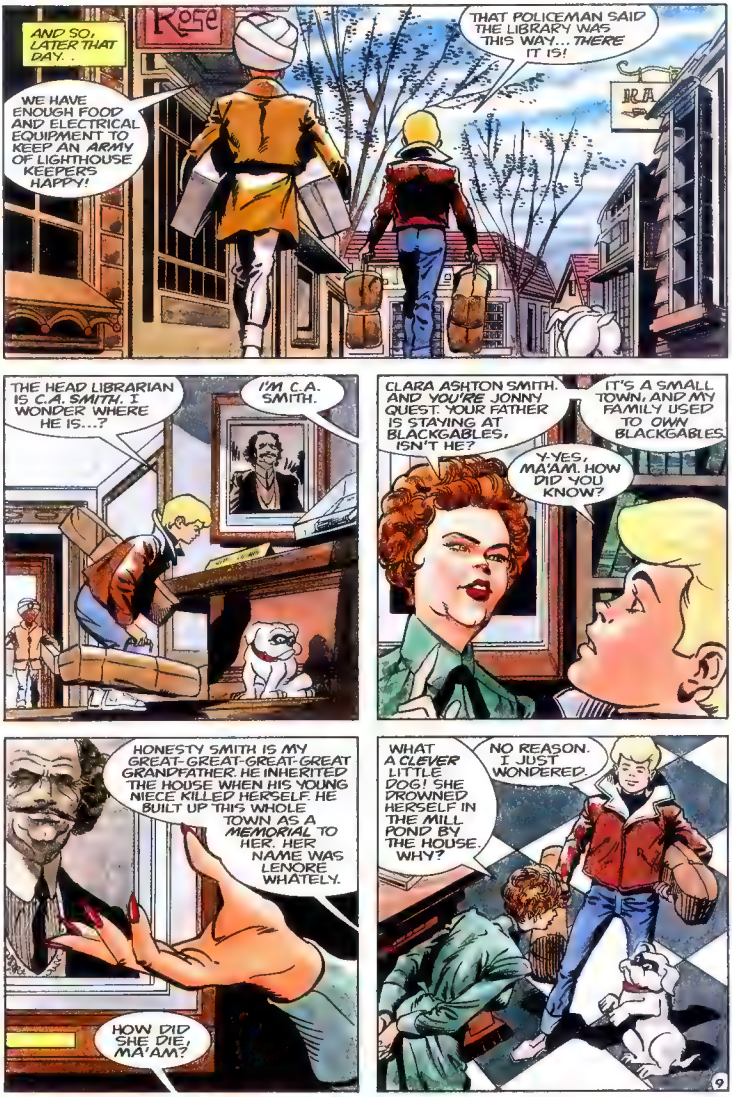

THE THING IS, BANDIT, I WONDER HOW MUCH OF LAST NIGHT WAS A DREAM... THAT LADY SURE SEEMED REAL ENOUGH. IF ANYBODY WHO WALKS THROUGH WALLS CAN SEEM REAL!

HI, HADJI. DID YOU SLEEP OKAY LAST NIGHT?
OH, YES, I SLEPT... BUT I HAD THE MOST TERRIBLE DREAMS! I WAS BACK IN INDIA AND THERE WERE WOLVES AND... IT SEEMED VERY REAL!

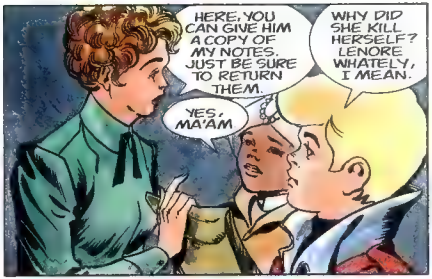

...AND THE FUNNY THING IS, PROFESSOR, I NEVER HAVE NIGHTMARES... OH, GOOD MORNING, BOYS. YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR BREAKFAST. I TOOK A LOOK AT THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM THIS MORNING, AND I THINK I CAN GET IT GOING.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING IS SHORTING OUT THE FUSES, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE APART THE FUSE BOX TO BE SURE. WE SHOULD RENT A GENERATOR FOR OUR EXPERIMENTS, THOUGH. I DOUBT THE WIRING COULD TAKE THAT MUCH VOLTAGE.

THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE TO HEAR YOU TALK, BENTON! THOSE SPIRITS ARE LICKED NOW! I CAN TASTE IT!
WELL... I WANT YOU BOYS TO WALK INTO TOWN AND GET US SOME SUPPLIES. AND THEN GO TO THE LIBRARY... IF GHOSTS ARE REALLY BEHIND THIS, WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING!

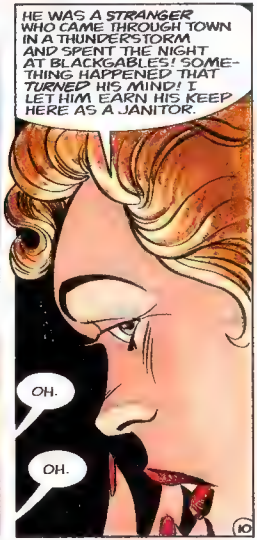

AND SO, LATER THAT DAY. .
Rose
WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT TO KEEP AN ARMY OF LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS HAPPY!
THAT POLICEMAN SAID THE LIBRARY WAS THIS WAY... THERE IT IS!
B&A
THE HEAD LIBRARIAN IS C.A. SMITH. I WONDER WHERE HE IS...?
I'M C.A. SMITH.
CLARA ASHTON SMITH. AND YOU'RE JONNY QUEST. YOUR FATHER IS STAYING AT BLACKGABLES, ISN'T HE?
Y-YES, MA'AM. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT'S A SMALL TOWN, AND MY FAMILY USED TO OWN BLACKGABLES.
HONESTY SMITH IS MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER. HE INHERITED THE HOUSE WHEN HIS YOUNG NIECE KILLED HERSELF. HE BUILT UP THIS WHOLE TOWN AS A MEMORIAL TO HER. HER NAME WAS LENORE WHATELY.
HOW DID SHE DIE, MA'AM?
WHAT A CLEVER LITTLE DOG! SHE DROWNED HERSELF IN THE MILL POND BY THE HOUSE. WHY?
NO REASON. I JUST WONDERED.
9

DR. QUEST WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE. IS THERE A BOOK WE CAN BRING HIM?
ACTUALLY, I'M WRITING A BOOK. HONESTY SMITH WAS A WONDERFUL MAN, AND PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIM.
THIS IS HIS DIARY. IT'S MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION.


HERE, YOU CAN GIVE HIM A COPY OF MY NOTES. JUST BE SURE TO RETURN THEM.
YES, MA'AM
WHY DID SHE KILL HERSELF? LENORE WHATELY, I MEAN.

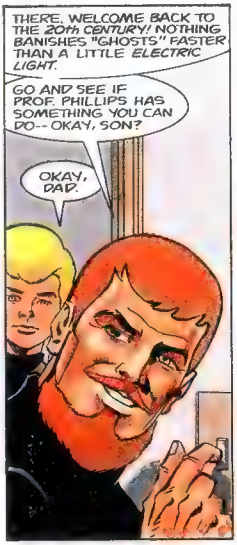
OH, IT WAS VERY ROMANTIC! HER LOVER WAS A YOUNG SAILOR WHO BECAME A PIRATE AFTER THE WAR OF 1812. SHE WAITED AND WAITED FOR HIM TO RETURN, BUT HE DIDN'T AND...
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

IT'S ALMOST ALL HALLOWS' EVE--AND ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN! BETTER BE CAREFUL, MISS SMITH.
I WILL, COLIN. WHY DON'T YOU SWEEP OUT THE BACK ROOM NOW?


HE WAS A STRANGER WHO CAME THROUGH TOWN IN A THUNDERSTORM AND SPENT THE NIGHT AT BLACKGABLES! SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT TURNED HIS MIND! I LET HIM EARN HIS KEEP HERE AS A JANITOR.
OH.
OH.

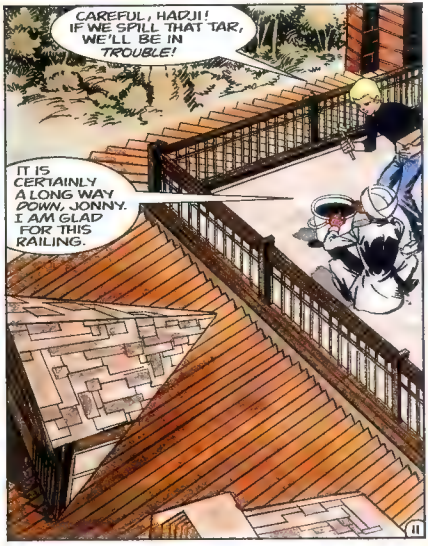
HOKAY, BUT DON'T FORGET... ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN, 'CAUSE ALL HALLOWS' EVE IS COMIN'.
PLEASE, DON'T PAY COLIN ANY MIND. HE'S NOT RIGHT.

A LITTLE LATER...
AND HE HAD NO I.D. OR WALLET EITHER. HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHO HE WAS!
YEAH, AND HIS EYES WERE REAL FUNNY! MAYBE THIS HOUSE IS DANGEROUS, DAD!
MAYBE, SON, BUT ALMOST EVERY OLD BUILDING HAS SOME STRANGE STORY ABOUT IT, IF YOU LOOK HARD ENOUGH.


THERE. WELCOME BACK TO THE 20th CENTURY! NOTHING BANISHES "GHOSTS" FASTER THAN A LITTLE ELECTRIC LIGHT.
GO AND SEE IF PROF. PHILLIPS HAS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO--OKAY, SON?
OKAY, DAD.

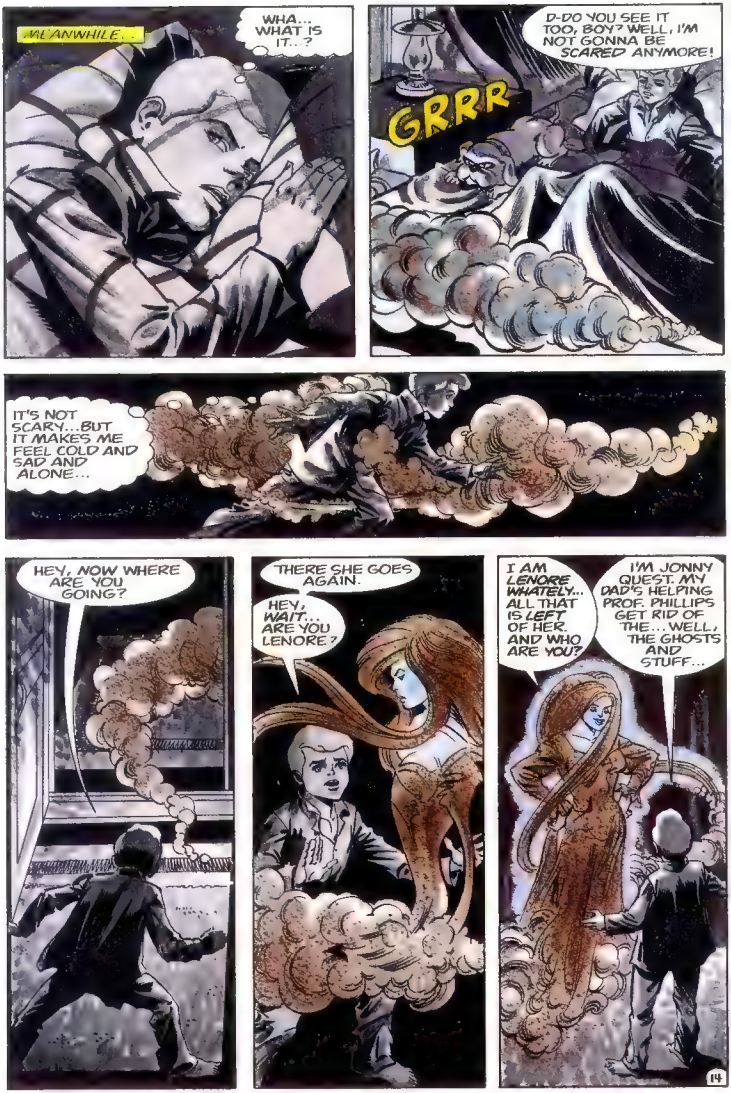
ACTUALLY, I'M ABOUT DONE HERE... BUT YOU COULD RESHINGLE THE "WIDOW'S WALK." IT'S BEEN LEAKING.
A WIDOW'S WALK? WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S THE FLAT WALKWAY ON THE ROOF. WIVES WOULD STAND THERE, WAITING FOR THEIR MEN TO SAIL HOME... AND OFTEN THEY WAITED IN VAIN.

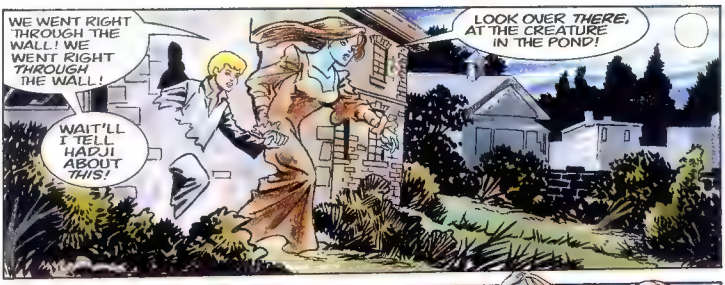

CAREFUL, HADJI! IF WE SPILL THAT TAR, WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE!
IT IS CERTAINLY A LONG WAY DOWN, JONNY. I AM GLAD FOR THIS RAILING.

THERE'LL BE NO WIND THROUGH THOSE WINDOWS! ARE YOU WORKING ON THE ULTRASOUND MACHINE, BENTON?
SKETCHING OUT SOME IDEAS. WHEN WE CLASHED WITH DR. ZIN A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE HAD CANNONS BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES.
PERHAPS IF YOU PUT THE SOLENOID HERE AND CONNECTED IT IN SERIES...
YOU WERE THE MOST BRILLIANT MAN I EVER KNEW, PROFESSOR. AND THE MOST... MELODRAMATIC.
MELODRAMATIC, BENTON? HOW DO YOU MEAN?
THIS TIME IT'S HAUNTED HOUSES... TWO YEARS AGO YOU WERE DRILLING THROUGH THE OCEAN FLOOR, LOOKING FOR ATLANTIS!
BENTON! THAT WAS A HARD-HEADED MINING VENTURE! ATLANTIS WAS JUST THE ICING...
BENTON!
HA HAHA HA HA
LITTLE MEN! LITTLE SILLY LIVING MEN!
HA HA HAHA
LOOK OUT!
DOOOOOOM TO THE LIVING! HAHAHAHA!
GONE .. ALL GONE!
I THINK THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT TIME TO WORK ON THE ULTRASOUND PROJECTOR, PROFESSOR.

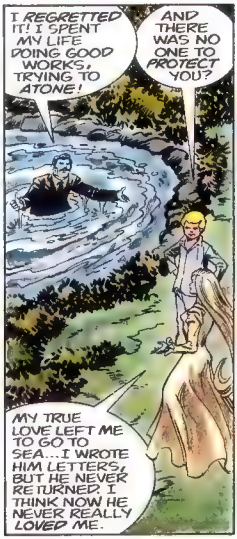
OOF...NO WONDER THE ROOF LEAKS! THERE'RE SO MANY SHINGLES MISSING OR BROKEN!
ACCORDING TO THE PROFESSOR, ALL WE MUST DO IS REMOVE THE DAMAGED SHINGLES, BRUSH ON THE TAR, AND RESHINGLE.
ICK! THIS SMELL SHOULD KEEP ANY GHOSTS AWAY!
YOU CAN SEE ALL THE WAY TO THE OCEAN FROM HERE.
YES, LENORE WHATELY MUST HAVE STOOD RIGHT HERE AND WAITED FOR HER BOYFRIEND... WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
BLACK WILSON, THE PIRATE. I...HADJI! BEHIND YOU!
WHAT IS IT, JONNY?
I SAW... I THOUGHT I SAW...
"...SO PROF. PHILLIPS WAS REAL EXCITED WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT SEEING THE GHOST. HE WANTS TO START BUILDING THE ULTRASOUND GUN REAL SOON...BUT I DON'T THINK DAD IS SO SURE..."
YOU SEE? NOTHING GHOSTLY ABOUT IT... JUST DREAMS AND IMAGINATION!
OUCH! TAKE IT EASY, WILL YOU?
SO SENSITIVE!
I BET IT'S GOING TO BE COUNTERFEITERS IN THE BASEMENT, PRETENDING TO BE GHOSTS! OR AN EVIL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER WHO WANTS THE LAND... THAT'S HOW THESE THINGS ALWAYS TURN OUT!
13

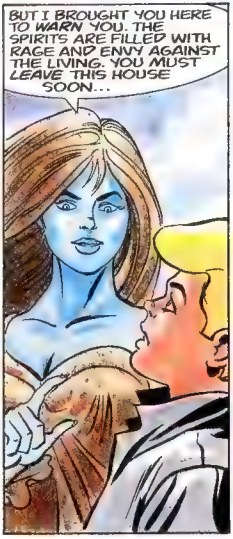

MEANWHILE...
WHA... WHAT IS IT..?
D-DO YOU SEE IT TOO, BOY? WELL, I'M NOT GONNA BE SCARED ANYMORE!
GRRR
IT'S NOT SCARY...BUT IT MAKES ME FEEL COLD AND SAD AND ALONE...
HEY, NOW WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
HEY, WAIT... ARE YOU LENORE?
I AM LENORE WHATELY... ALL THAT IS LEFT OF HER. AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JONNY QUEST. MY DAD'S HELPING PROF. PHILLIPS GET RID OF THE...WELL, THE GHOSTS AND STUFF...

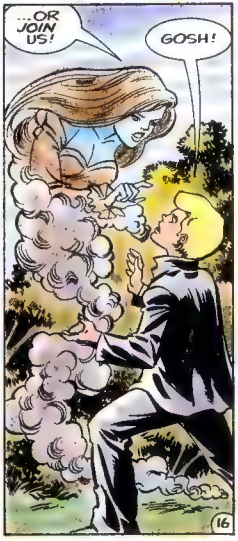
HE MAY FIND THAT DIFFICULT. WE ARE LEGION IN THIS PLACE. HERE, TAKE MY HAND...
YOU SEE? A HOST OF US... BROUGHT HERE BY MURDER... HELD HERE BY LIES!
GOSH! THERE'S A TON OF THEM!
INDEED! HERE IS "TWO-GUN ROB," WHO SLEW TRAVELERS ALONG THIS ROAD AND BURIED THEM IN THE BASEMENT! YOU'LL FIND ALL HIS VICTIMS WITH HIM.
AND THIS IS RED LEGS, SACHEM OF THE MOHICAN IROQUOIS, WHO LED HIS BAND TO SLAUGHTER A WHOLE VILLAGE OF HURON!
AND THE COLLIER BROTHERS AND MAD TIM THE POISONER AND SLASHER MARY AND SO MANY OTHERS, TRAPPED IN THIS AWFUL HOUSE FOREVER!
ARE YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU KILLED YOURSELF, MA'AM?
I AM NO SUICIDE! YET, BECAUSE THE LIVING BELIEVE THAT LIE, I AM CHAINED HERE WITH THE REST! COME, YOU MUST SEE SOMETHING!
15

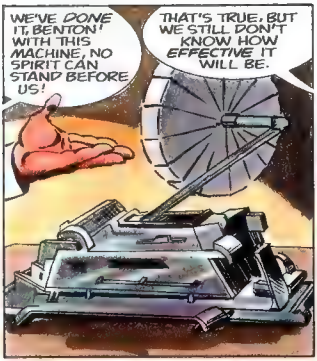

WE WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL! WE WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
WAIT'LL I TELL HADJI ABOUT THIS!
LOOK OVER THERE, AT THE CREATURE IN THE POND!

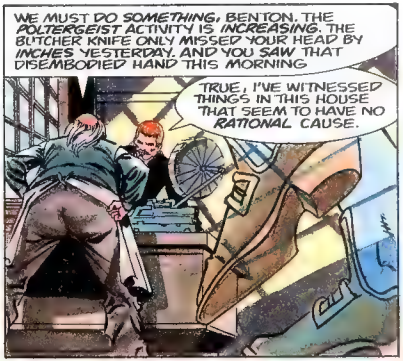
HELP ME... GENTLE LENORE, PLEASE RELEASE ME FROM THIS COLD AND TORMENT.
HONESTY SMITH? HE KILLED YOU?
HE WAS MY GUARDIAN, AND COVETED MY HOUSE AND LAND. WHEN I WOULDN'T SIGN THEM OVER TO HIM, HE DROWNED ME IN THIS POOL!

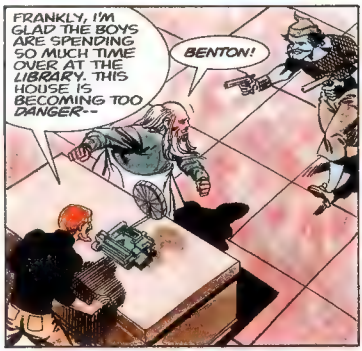

I REGRETTED IT! I SPENT MY LIFE DOING GOOD WORKS; TRYING TO ATONE!
AND THERE WAS NO ONE TO PROTECT YOU?
MY TRUE LOVE LEFT ME TO GO TO SEA... I WROTE HIM LETTERS, BUT HE NEVER RETURNED. I THINK NOW HE NEVER REALLY LOVED ME.

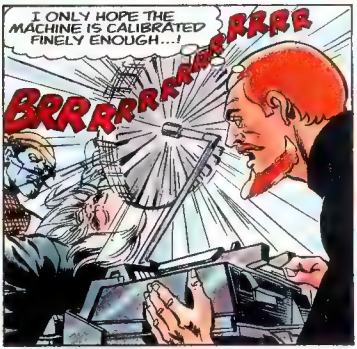

BUT I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO WARN YOU. THE SPIRITS ARE FILLED WITH RAGE AND ENVY AGAINST THE LIVING. YOU MUST LEAVE THIS HOUSE SOON...

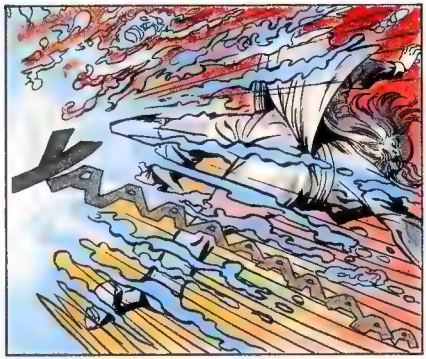

...OR JOIN US!
GOSH!


WE'VE DONE IT, BENTON! WITH THIS MACHINE, NO SPIRIT CAN STAND BEFORE US!
THAT'S TRUE. BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE.


WE MUST DO SOMETHING, BENTON. THE POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY IS INCREASING. THE BUTCHER KNIFE ONLY MISSED YOUR HEAD BY INCHES YESTERDAY, AND YOU SAW THAT DISEMBODIED HAND THIS MORNING.
TRUE, I'VE WITNESSED THINGS IN THIS HOUSE THAT SEEM TO HAVE NO RATIONAL CAUSE.


FRANKLY, I'M GLAD THE BOYS ARE SPENDING SO MUCH TIME OVER AT THE LIBRARY. THIS HOUSE IS BECOMING TOO DANGER--
BENTON!


I ONLY HOPE THE MACHINE IS CALIBRATED FINELY ENOUGH...!
BRRRRRRRRRRRRR



WE DID IT, BENTON! WE DID IT! IF WE DESTROYED ONE, WE CAN DESTROY THEM ALL!
LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, OLD FRIEND.

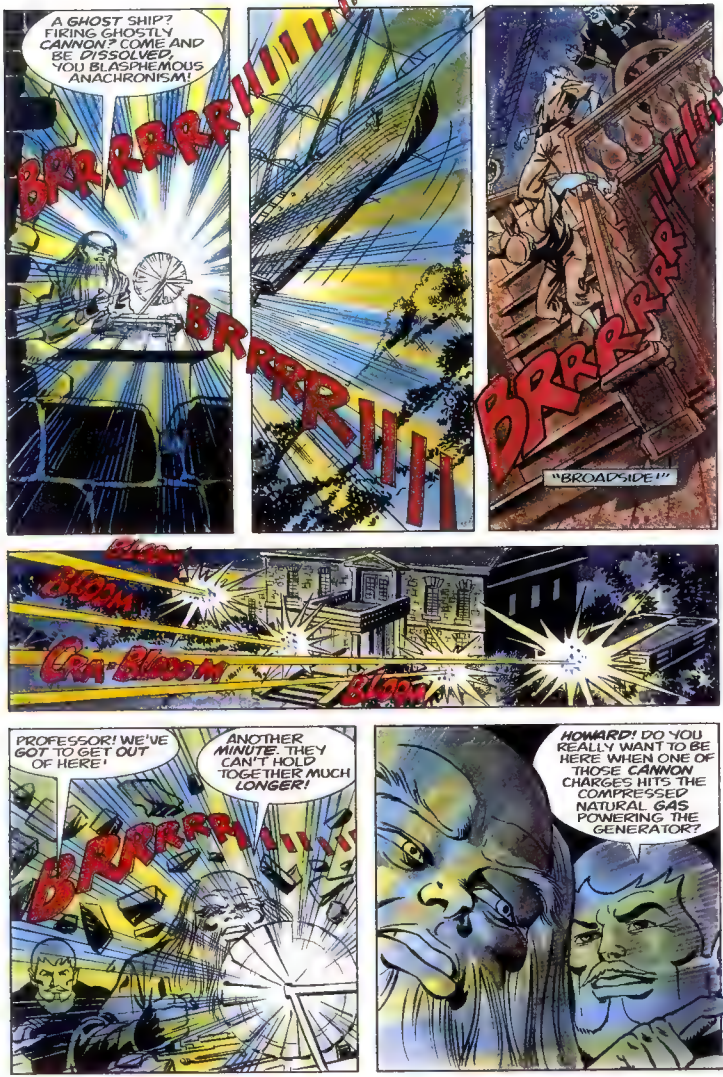
MEANWHILE...
JONNY, LOOK! I HAVE FOUND HIM! I FOUND THE PIRATE!
MY GOODNESS! I'VE NEVER SEEN TWO YOUNG MEN SO INTERESTED IN HISTORY!
YES, MA'AM. I'M REAL INTERESTED IN HISTORY JUST NOW.
"YE BOLD AND EVIL PYRATE, BLACKE WILSSON, WAS AT LENGTH KILLED WHEN HIS SHIP, DUNSANY'S REVENGE, SANK IN A STORM ALONG YE IVORY COAST."
PERHAPS HE NEVER READ HER LETTERS!
PLEASE, MS. SMITH, CAN YOU LOOK THROUGH HONESTY SMITH'S DIARY AGAIN? MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT LENORE YOU MISSED! IT'S AWFUL IMPORTANT!
WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT...
I CARVED THE JACK-O'-LANTERN FOR YOUR DESK LIKE YOU ASKED ME, MISS SMITH. AND I PUT A CANDLE IN IT, TOO.
THAT'S NICE, COLIN. YOU SEE, BOYS, I HAVEN'T MISSED ANYTHING.
HONESTY SMITH GIVES A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF HIS NIECE'S DROWNING.
THE POOR GIRL PROBABLY... WHAT'S THIS? IT MUST HAVE BEEN TUCKED IN THE BINDING...
IT IS A LETTER!
18

IT'S ADDRESSED TO THE CAPTAIN OF DUNSANY'S REVENGE... "MY DEAREST ONE, YOU MUST RETURN FOR ME AT ONCE! MY UNCLE IS A DANGEROUS MAN. IF HE SHOULD FIND THIS LETTER, I KNOW NOT WHAT HE MAY DO..."
THAT'S WHY WILSON NEVER CAME BACK!
YES. HE KEPT ALL HER LETTERS!
IT IS A SHAME CAPTAIN WILSON NEVER GOT HIS LETTER
HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE HONESTY SMITH OF SUCH AN OUTRAGE?! THE GIRL WAS OVERWROUGHT!
BUT, MA'AM, IF SHE REALLY WAS MURDERED...
THE ONLY WAY SPIRITS CAN READ LETTERS IS IF THEY'RE BURNT... 'COURSE ON ALL HALLOWS' EVE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...
I WILL NOT STAND HERE AND LISTEN TO THESE FOUL LIES! GET OUT!
BUT I CAN SHOW YOU...!
IF YOU WRITE IT IN YOUR BOOK, SHE'LL BE SET FREE...
OH...!
IT'S BURNING... BURNING! THE HISTORICAL FIND OF MY LIFE AND IT'S RUINED!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU LITTLE VANDALS!
HOW MUCH TROUBLE ARE WE IN, JONNY?
A WHOLE LOT, I THINK!

SOMEWHAT LATER...
SON, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU A MINUTE?
SURE, DAD. WHAT'S UP?
I THINK YOU KNOW. I JUST SPENT AN INCREDIBLY UNPLEASANT HALF-HOUR ON THE PHONE WITH THE LOCAL LIBRARIAN. SHE SEEMS TO THINK I RAISED JACK THE RIPPER.
HONEST, DAD, IT WASN'T MY FAULT... IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED... I DIDN'T TOUCH IT...
I KNOW, SON.
I THINK THE STRESS IS STARTING TO TELL ON ALL OF US. ONCE WE USE THE ULTRASOUND TONIGHT, WE'LL ALL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
I GUESS.
SHOULD WE CLEAN AWAY ALL THE SPIDER WEBS, DAD? THIS ONE LOOKS PRETTY NEAT
WELL, A FEW SPIDERS CAN HELP CONTROL FLIES AND OTHER PESTS. BUT WE HUMANS HAVE A HARD TIME LIVING NEAR SPIDERS. THEY'RE SO ALIEN TO US.
SORT OF LIKE GHOSTS, HUH, DAD?
20

AND FINALLY...
WONDERFUL... WONDERFUL! BENTON, IT IS NEARLY THE WITCHING HOUR. THE SPIRITS ARE MOST ACTIVE, AND THUS, MOST VULNERABLE! HALF-POWER!
CHECK! JONNY, STAY FAR BACK.
YES, DAD.
RIGHT, HALF-POWER IT IS!
BRRRRRRIIIIIII
BRRRRRR
THAT SOUND! I CAN HEAR IT THROUGH THE EAR-PHONES...
OOOOOOOWWWWW
AAAAAAAOOOOWWWW
... THE CROONING OF SPIRITS IN TORMENT! WE'VE DONE IT, BENTON!
JONNY! LOOK! THE GHOSTS!
BRRRRIII
AOOOOWWW
THEY SEEM IN PAIN! WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE?
AOOOWWW
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN, HADJI!
BRRRRII
BRRRIIII
OOOOOOOOWWWW
HELP... ME...
21

THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH, PROFESSOR! I'M SHUTTING DOWN THE MACHINE!
NO, YOU CAN'T! DON'T WORRY! THEY'RE NOT HUMAN ANYMORE!
BRRRR-IIII
AOOOWWWW
PERHAPS NOT... BUT I AM!
WE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS! FULL POWER! FULL POWER!
BRRIIIII
AOOOWWWWW
BRRRRRIIIIII
BRRAMMKKKKRARSHHHH
BRRRR_RRRRRH
HADJI, I THINK WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
22

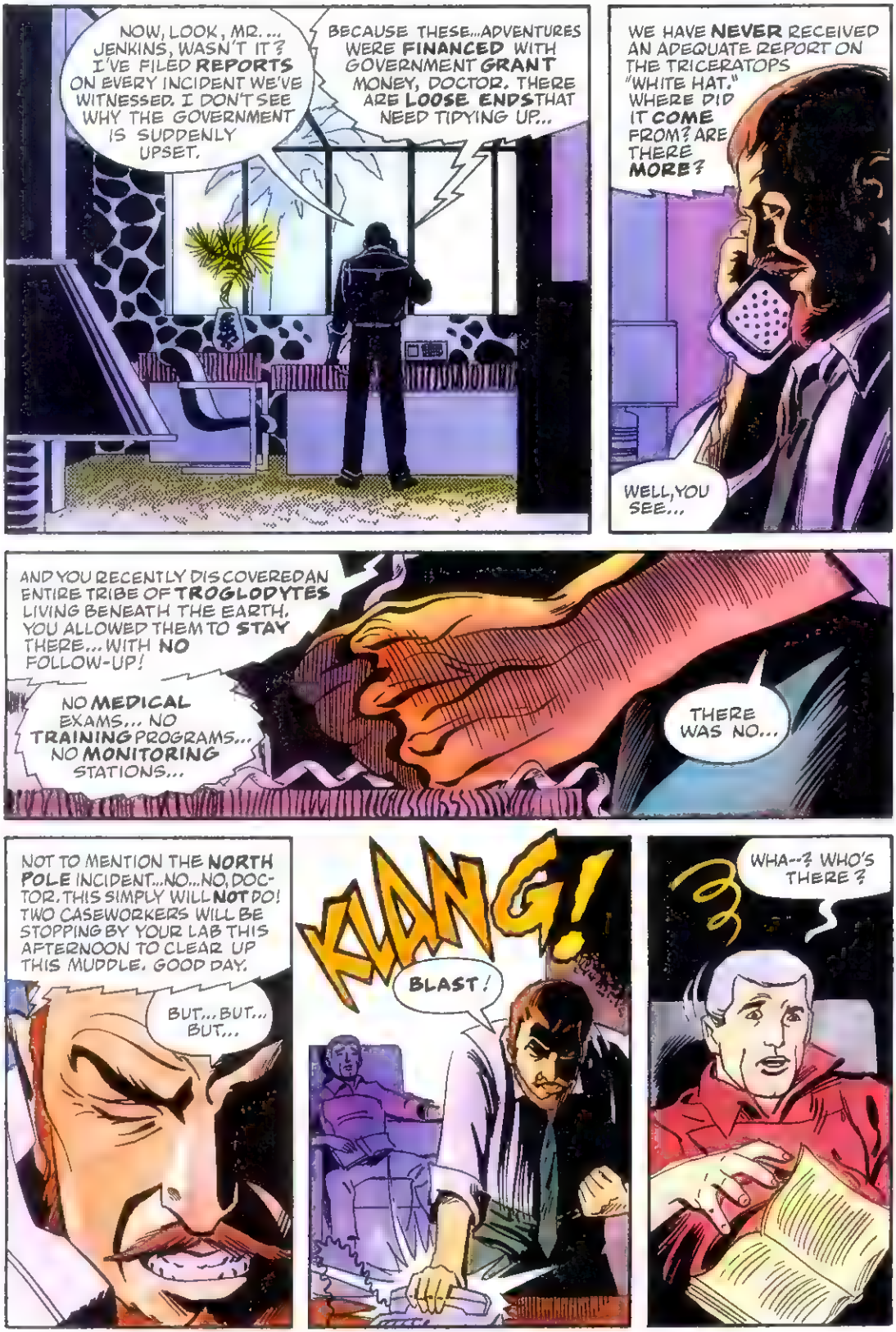

A GHOST SHIP? FIRING GHOSTLY CANNON? COME AND BE DISSOLVED, YOU BLASPHEMOUS ANACHRONISM!
BRRRRRRRIIIIIII
BRRRRRIIIII
BRRRRRRIIIIII
"BROADSIDE!"
BLOOM
BLOOM
CRA-BLOOOM
BLOOM
PROFESSOR! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
ANOTHER MINUTE. THEY CAN'T HOLD TOGETHER MUCH LONGER!
BRRRRRIIIIII
HOWARD! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE HERE WHEN ONE OF THOSE CANNON CHARGES HITS THE COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS POWERING THE GENERATOR?

BRRRR!!!!!!
BLOOM
BRRRR!!!!!!!!!!!!
BRRHIICRASSSHHHH
KA-BROOOMM

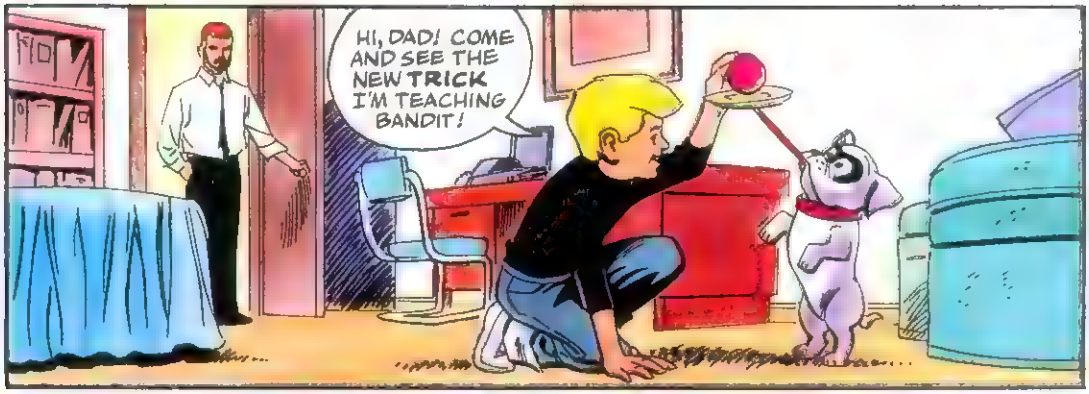
DR. QUEST! I WAS COMING TO APOLOGIZE FOR THIS AFTERNOON, WHEN MY CAR BROKE DOWN. IF THIS YOUNG GENTLEMAN HADN'T... WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
IT... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A WAR... AND... AND THE HOUSE IS BURNING AND THERE'S A PIRATE SHIP...
I'M AFRAID THIS MAY BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO SUMMARIZE...
...AND SHE WILL BE TRAPPED FOREVER HERE, UNLESS YOU CAN TELL FOLK THE TRUTH ABOUT HER.
YOU'RE INSANE! WHAT TRUTH?
THAT I KILLED HER, OUT OF GREED AND DESPERATION, AND SPENT A LIFE OF FEAR AND REGRET!
AND NOW I AM FREE, TOO!
THEN IT'S TRUE... IT'S ALL TRUE.
HE WAS A GHOST!
AND WHO IS THAT YOUNG WOMAN?
SHE IS LENORE WHATELY, MADAM, AND I AM HONESTY SMITH...

ON ALL HALLOWS' EVE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...
"COLIN."
"DEAREST LENORE... I TOLD YOU I WOULD BE BACK FOR YOU."
"LA, BUT IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH."
"NAG, NAG, NAG."
26

So, anyhow, we went back to town, but the guy who had been Colin didn't remember being Colin. He was a salesman from Vermont and he was upset, 'cause he didn't remember any of the last four years. I guess he was in a lot of trouble when he got home!
Professor Phillips has decided he doesn't want to hunt ghosts anymore. He's going to Oregon to look for the Seven Cities of Cibola, but Dad says we can't go. We'll be home soon, so take care. Bandit and Hadji say hi, too.
Jonny
SO, MR. BANNON, HOW DID YOUR FRIEND DR. QUEST DO WITH HIS "HAUNTED HOUSE" MYSTERY?
PRETTY WELL, ALTHOUGH IT TURNED OUT NOT TO BE A GHOST STORY, AFTER ALL. IT WAS MORE OF A LOVE STORY.
OF COURSE. IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, MR. BANNON... THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!
END


NOW, LOOK, MR. ... JENKINS, WASN'T IT? I'VE FILED **REPORTS** ON EVERY INCIDENT WE'VE WITNESSED. I DON'T SEE WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS SUDDENLY UPSET.
BECAUSE THESE...ADVENTURES WERE **FINANCED** WITH GOVERNMENT **GRANT** MONEY, DOCTOR. THERE ARE **LOOSE ENDS** THAT NEED TIDYING UP...
WE HAVE **NEVER** RECEIVED AN ADEQUATE REPORT ON THE TRICERATOPS "WHITE HAT." WHERE DID IT **COME** FROM? ARE THERE **MORE**?
WELL, YOU SEE...
AND YOU RECENTLY DISCOVERED AN ENTIRE TRIBE OF **TROGLODYTES** LIVING BENEATH THE EARTH. YOU ALLOWED THEM TO **STAY** THERE... WITH **NO** FOLLOW-UP!
NO **MEDICAL** EXAMS... NO **TRAINING** PROGRAMS... NO **MONITORING** STATIONS...
THERE WAS NO...
NOT TO MENTION THE **NORTH POLE** INCIDENT...NO...NO, DOCTOR. THIS SIMPLY WILL **NOT** DO! TWO CASEWORKERS WILL BE STOPPING BY YOUR LAB THIS AFTERNOON TO CLEAR UP THIS MUDDLE. GOOD DAY.
BUT... BUT... BUT...
KLANG!
BLAST!
WHA--? WHO'S THERE?

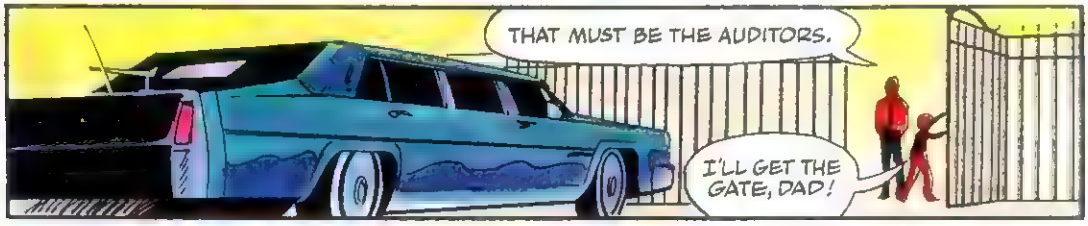
OH, HI, DOC. I WAS JUST DOING SOME RESEARCH ON THE WAR OF 1812 TO QUIZ THE BOYS AFTER OUR RUN ON THE BEACH.
I'M NOT SURPRISED. YOU JUST GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, RACE. TAKE IT EASY... A BONE INFECTION IS NOTHING TO LAUGH AT.
I GUESS I DOZED OFF.
THE INVASION OF CANADA (812 - 1813 by PIERRE BERTON
DON'T WORRY, DOC. WE BANNONS BRUISE EASY, BUT WE HEAL QUICK. I'M A THOUSAND PERCENT!
SURE YOU ARE.
THIS IS MOST INTERESTING. I'M GLAD YOU'RE GIVING THEM THE CANADIAN SIDE OF THE WAR, RACE. I LIKE THE BOYS TO HAVE A VARIETY OF IDEAS. IT KEEPS THEM FROM BECOMING TOO NARROW, DON'T YOU THINK SO...?
RACE, DON'T YOU THINK...?
RACE? RACE?
Z
THE SONG OF RACE
GOOD NIGHT, SWEET PRINCE!
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS: Story
MARC HEMPEL: Pencils / Letters
MARK WHEATLEY: Inks / Colors
KATHRYN MAYER: Letters / Colors
DIANA SCHUTZ: Edits

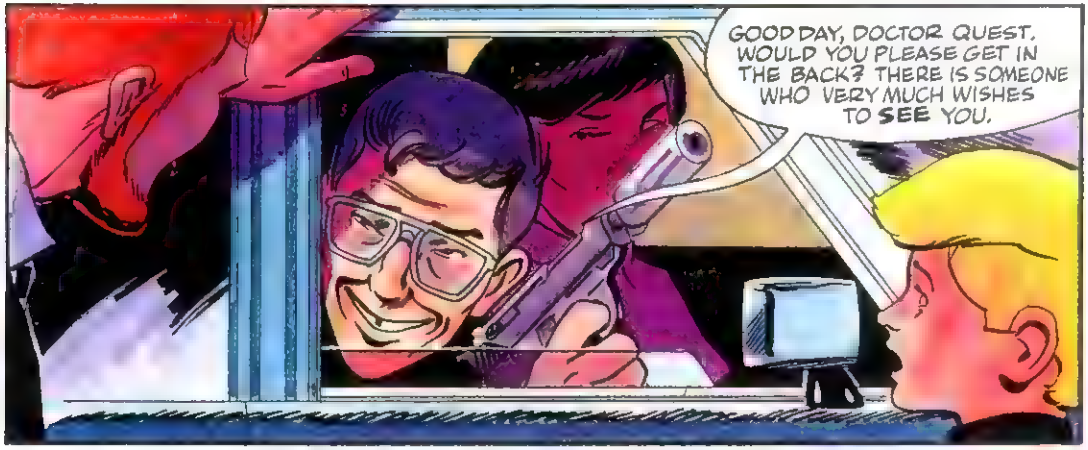

HI, DAD! COME AND SEE THE NEW TRICK I'M TEACHING BANDIT!

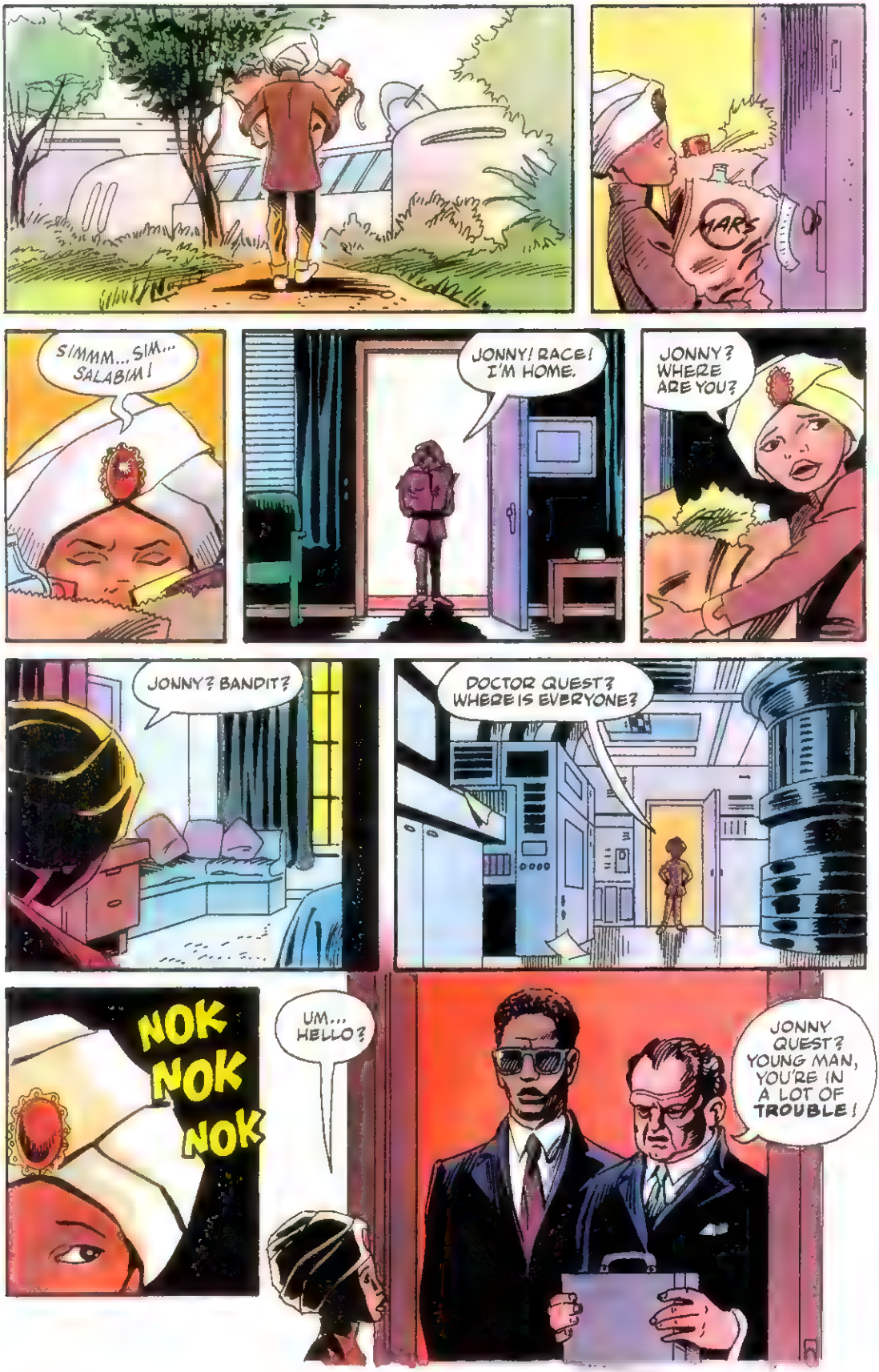
KLAK-AK
WUMP

DARN! AND HE WAS ALMOST DOING IT, TOO.
DON'T GIVE UP ON HIM, SON.
WHY DON'T YOU AND BANDIT GIVE ME SOME MORAL SUPPORT WHILE I TALK TO THE AUDITORS?

WHERE'S HADJI?
GONE SHOPPING. IT'S HIS TURN TO COOK DINNER, AND HE SAID HE NEEDED CURRY AND VEGETABLES AND STUFF.


THAT MUST BE THE AUDITORS.
I'LL GET THE GATE, DAD!


GOOD DAY, DOCTOR QUEST. WOULD YOU PLEASE GET IN THE BACK? THERE IS SOMEONE WHO VERY MUCH WISHES TO SEE YOU.


MARS
SIMMM... SIM... SALABIM!
JONNY! RACE! I'M HOME.
JONNY? WHERE ARE YOU?
JONNY? BANDIT?
DOCTOR QUEST? WHERE IS EVERYONE?
NOK NOK NOK
UM... HELLO?
JONNY QUEST? YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!

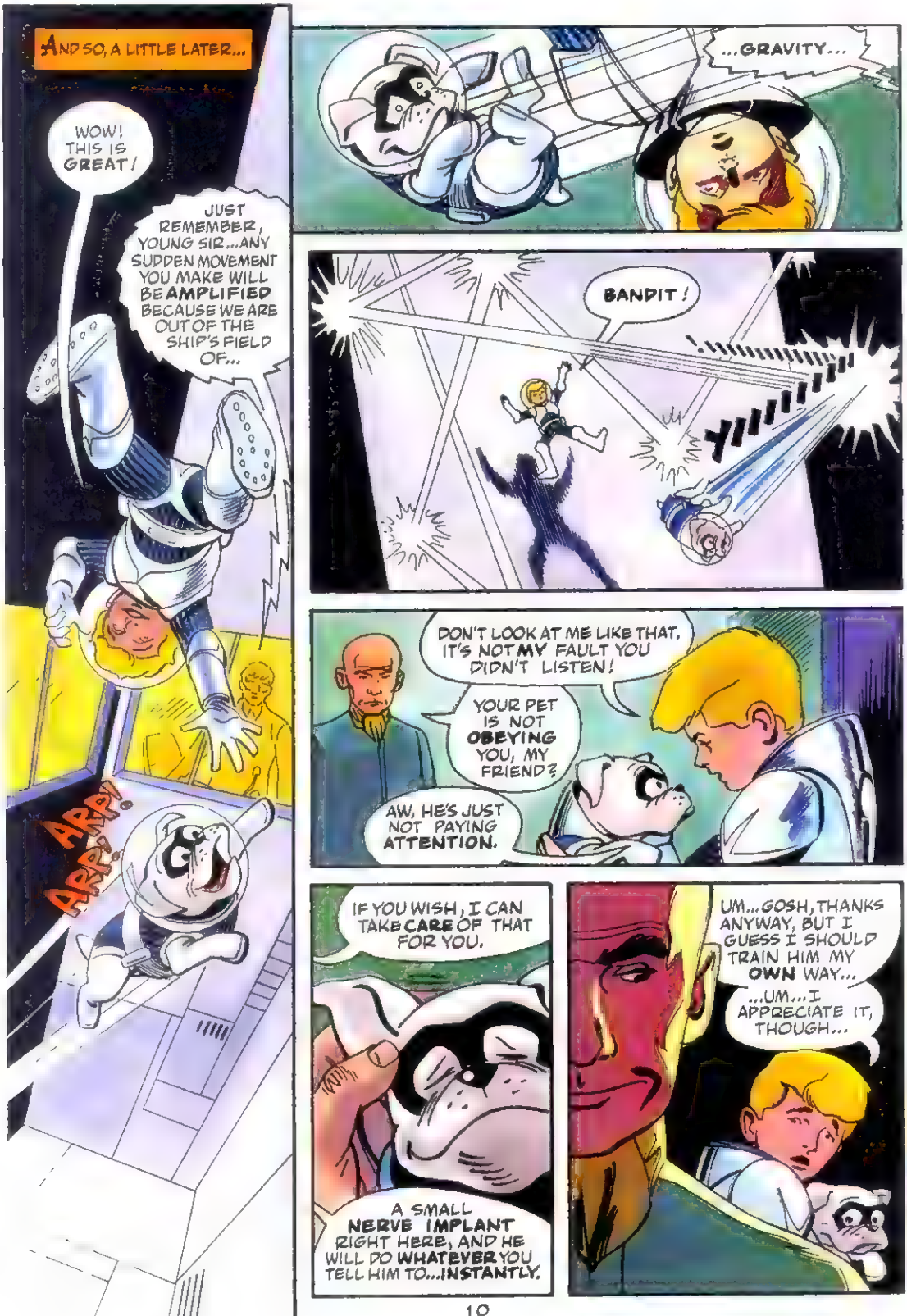
MMMMMM
KLIK
OFF
UUHHHH! WHERE ARE WE, DAD?
I DON'T KNOW, SON. I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT KNOCKED US OUT.
GAS, I SUPPOSE.
A SONIC MIND-BLOCK, ACTUALLY.
PLEASE PUT THESE ON. ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DUE COURSE.
PRESSURE SUITS? YOU'RE EXPECTING TO GET US TO GO INTO SPACE?
YES.

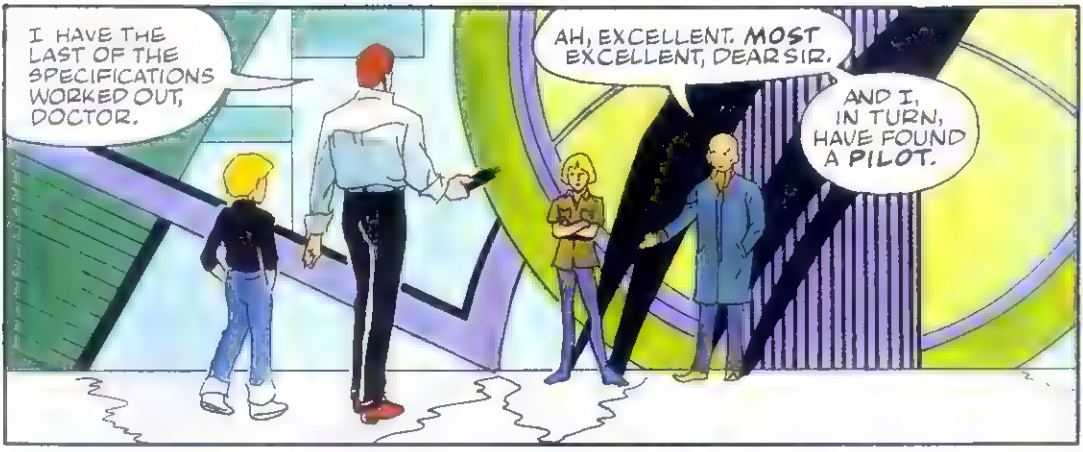
HOW AMAZING! A COMPLEX LIKE THIS, IN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH! IT MUST SOMEHOW BE RADAR-NEUTRAL.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO DO WITH US, DAD?
NOTHING UNPLEASANT, I ASSURE YOU, YOUNG SIR.
I DO SO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT, SIR, BUT MY NEED WAS GREAT.
AND, BE HONEST NOW, ARE YOU NOT PLEASED TO BE WITNESSING A SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE OF THIS MAGNITUDE?
I'D BE MORE PLEASED IF I DIDN'T KNOW THE CRIMES THAT WENT INTO FINANCING IT.
BOY, IT SURE IS BIG, HUH, DAD?
DR. ZIN!
CORRECT ON THE FIRST GUESS.
THAT WILL BE ALL, NATASHA.
WILL YOU COME THIS WAY, DOCTOR? I AM SO PLEASED YOU COULD BE HERE. SO VERY PLEASED, INDEED!
FIREARMS DO HAVE THAT EFFECT ON ME.
YES, AND IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOUNG SIR, OVER THERE ARE THE SLAVE LABOR PENS AND THE WATER TORTURE CELLS; AND THE WELL OF PERPETUAL PAIN.
GOSH!
MOST AMUSING.
I SUPPOSE, THEN, WE'RE NOT PRISONERS HERE... THAT WE'RE FREE TO GO?
OF COURSE... BUT YOU'VE JUST ARRIVED...

LET ME AT LEAST SHOW OFF THESE SUITES OF LABORATORIES. WITHIN THESE WALLS THERE EXISTS A SCIENCE ONLY GUESSED AT BY THE WORLD OUTSIDE.
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS MODEL... CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT REPRESENTS?
I DON'T KNOW... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
THIS IS ONLY A GUESS... BUT COULD IT BE A DEEP SPACE PROBE, FITTED WITH ION DRIVE, WITH AN OPTIONAL FUSION CAPABILITY?
WELL, YES... IT IS.
YOU SEE, I HAVE HAD MY OWN SPACE PROGRAM FOR SOME TIME NOW. THIS SHIP WAS TO GO INTO DEEP SPACE FOR THREE YEARS AND THEN RETURN, WITH ORE SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM SCORES OF PLANETS!
I WILL COLONIZE THE GALAXY!
THIS IS WHY I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE, DOCTOR. THE SHIP WAS SUPPOSED TO DOCK AT THIS STATION 12 HOURS AGO. INSTEAD, IT IS IN DECAYING EARTH ORBIT, WITH NO COMMUNICATION AND NO SIGN OF LIFE.
ALL BACK-UP SYSTEMS ARE INOPERATIVE.
UNLESS YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO RESCUE THEM, THE CREW OF THAT SHIP WILL FALL TO A BLAZING DEATH IN 71 HOURS!

YOU BET YOU'LL GET BACK TO ME! IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS AND WE CAN'T FIND ANY TRACE OF THEM! THE LOCALS ARE COMPLETELY STUMPED.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF IT'S IRREGULAR! MY BEST FRIEND HAS VANISHED AND I MEAN TO KNOW WHY!
JONNY...? WHERE ARE YOU, JONNY...?
I MUST... RELAX... ALLOW MY MIND TO LAP AGAINST THE ALIEN SHORES OF OTHER CONSCIOUSNESSES...
I FLOAT UPWARD...HIGHER AND HIGHER...
SOME FORCE... GENTLE AS HOPE...DRAWS ME UPWARD. I TOUCH ANOTHER'S THOUGHT... BECOME ANOTHER MIND...
I AM TRAPPED IN THE BLACKNESS OF THE VOID, LOCKED AWAY IN BLACK DEEPS... I WHO COULD SEE ALL...CAN NOW SEE NOTHING.
THOUGH IMPRISONED MY MIND LEAPS FREE...TO SEE THE BLUE AND GREEN LIGHT... SO FRIENDLY AND SO COLD...
LOOK, BANNON, YOU WANT TO FIND QUEST BECAUSE YOU LIKE HIM. WE WANT TO FIND HIM TO GET OUR REPORTS FILED. IT SEEMS TO ME WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST. YOU'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THE RED TAPE WITHOUT US.
WELL, I...
SO COLD... TRAPPED... TRAPPED...
RACE! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I THINK JONNY IS TRAPPED OUT IN SPACE!
SOUNDS LIKE WE JUST GOT OUR FIRST CLUE, PARTNERS. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO WITH IT!

HI, DAD... HAVE YOU FOUND ANY WAY TO SAVE THOSE SPACE PILOTS?
I THINK SO, SON. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
THERE'S NO WAY OF OPENING THE MAIN HATCH FROM OUTSIDE, BUT ACCORDING TO THESE PLANS, THERE'S A SMALL EXHAUST VENT AT THE REAR OF THE SHIP.
ONE MAN, IF HE'S SMALL AND LIMBER ENOUGH, COULD ENTER THROUGH HERE, AND USE A PORTABLE GENERATOR TO GET THE DOORS OPEN FROM INSIDE.
OHHHHH. BUT HE'LL HAVE TO WEAR A PRESSURIZED SUIT AND... WELL, IT'S ONLY A THEORY.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING QUICKLY. THE MEN INSIDE ONLY HAVE A FEW HOURS BEFORE THEY RE-ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
DAD, DO YOU THINK ZIN WILL LET US GO, AFTER HIS MEN ARE SAFE?
I DON'T KNOW, SON. BUT I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ESCAPING UNTIL I'VE DONE WHAT I CAN TO FREE THEM.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
EXPLORING, MOSTLY. IT'S REAL NEAT AROUND HERE. MR. SMEE PROMISED I COULD TRY OUT THE NO-GRAVITY ROOM. IT'S WHERE THE SPACE CREWS ARE TRAINED.
LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, SON. I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL NEED ALL OUR KNOWLEDGE TO GET OUT OF THIS!

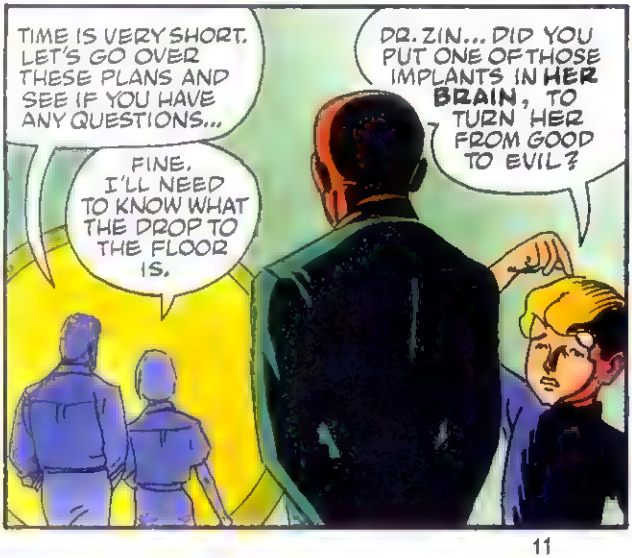

AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...
WOW! THIS IS GREAT!
JUST REMEMBER, YOUNG SIR...ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENT YOU MAKE WILL BE AMPLIFIED BECAUSE WE ARE OUT OF THE SHIP'S FIELD OF...
ARF! ARF! ARF!
...GRAVITY...
BANDIT!
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN!
YOUR PET IS NOT OBEYING YOU, MY FRIEND?
AW, HE'S JUST NOT PAYING ATTENTION.
IF YOU WISH, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR YOU.
A SMALL NERVE IMPLANT RIGHT HERE, AND HE WILL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL HIM TO...INSTANTLY.
UM...GOSH, THANKS ANYWAY, BUT I GUESS I SHOULD TRAIN HIM MY OWN WAY...
...UM...I APPRECIATE IT, THOUGH...


I HAVE THE LAST OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WORKED OUT, DOCTOR.
AH, EXCELLENT. MOST EXCELLENT, DEAR SIR.
AND I, IN TURN, HAVE FOUND A PILOT.

BENTON QUEST, THIS IS SAMANTHA LANE-POOLE.
HI, DOC. MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATES CALL ME WEASEL.

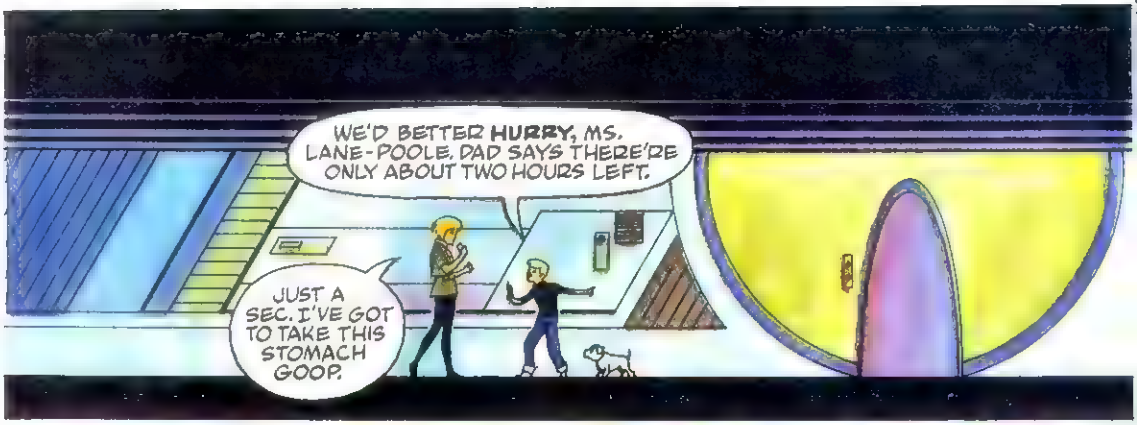
MS. LANE-POOLE HAS WIGGLED HER WAY INTO SOME OF THE FINEST JEWELRY STORES AND MUSEUMS IN THE WORLD. SHE IS AN EXPERT IN FORCED ENTRY.
LANE-POOLE...? HAVEN'T I SEEN YOUR NAME IN CONNECTION WITH SOME MINERS RESCUED IN A CAVE-IN?

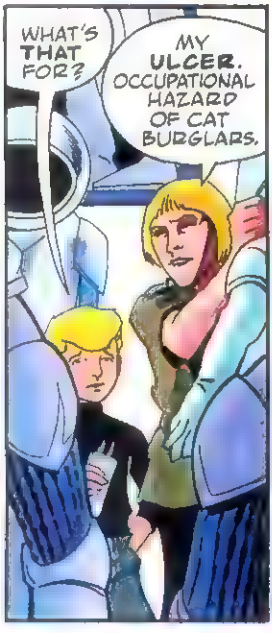
YEP, I'VE DONE SOME RESCUE WORK IN CAVE-INS AND EARTHQUAKES, BUT ETERNAL GRATITUDE OF THE POOR AND POWERLESS DIDN'T CUT IT FOR ME.
WHEN ZIN OFFERED ME A PLACE IN HIS ORGANIZATION, I JUST COULDN'T REFUSE.
...COULDN'T REFUSE...


TIME IS VERY SHORT. LET'S GO OVER THESE PLANS AND SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...
FINE. I'LL NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE DROP TO THE FLOOR IS.
DR. ZIN... DID YOU PUT ONE OF THOSE IMPLANTS IN HER BRAIN, TO TURN HER FROM GOOD TO EVIL?

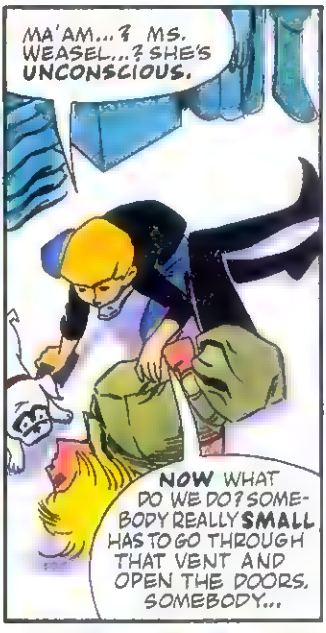
NO, DEAR BOY. I JUST OFFERED HER LOTS OF MONEY. IT WORKED SPLENDIDLY.

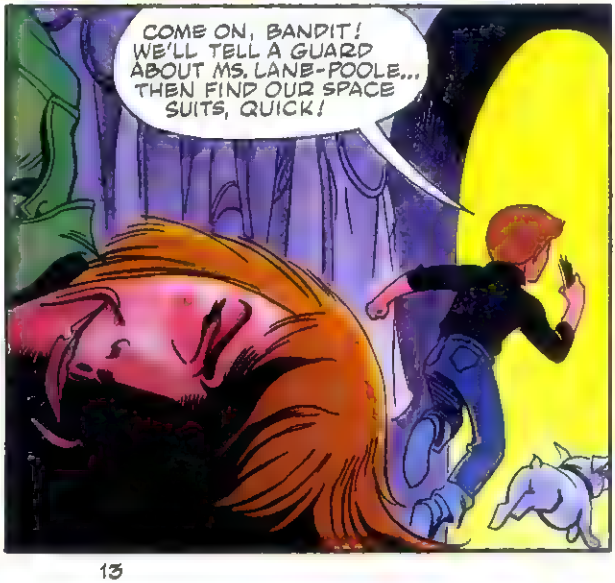
I DON'T SEE WHY I HAD TO COME DOWN HERE ON MY DAY OFF!
BECAUSE WE THINK PEOPLE BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN SPACE ARE JUST A LITTLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHETHER YOUR BARBECUE STARTS ON TIME!
AND BECAUSE WE CAN ARRANGE IT SO THAT YOUR FUNDING WOULDN'T EVEN SUPPORT A STRONG PAIR OF READING GLASSES!
PLEASE, SIR, WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!
BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU! EVEN IF THERE WERE SOME HUGE UNREPORTED OBJECT UP THERE, WE COULDN'T SIGHT IT VISUALLY UNLESS WE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT MICROQUADRANT TO SEARCH.
AND IF THIS THING IS RADAR-SILENT, WE DON'T HAVE A...
IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRY A LITTLE MORE NORTH... SAY, 13 DEGREES, 12 MINUTES, AND 9 SECONDS?
YES, POSSIBLE, BUT...
...THERE'S NOTHING... NO, WAIT... THERE IS SOMETHING THERE... IT'S BIG, TOO!
TAKE A RECORDING OF ITS POSITION AND SWING THE RADIO TELESCOPE THAT WAY!
THEY MAY BE USING MICROWAVES OR LASERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GROUND. WE NEED TRACKING EQUIPMENT!
HOW DID YOU EVER GUESS WHERE TO LOOK?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE A VOICE IN MY HEAD TOLD ME?

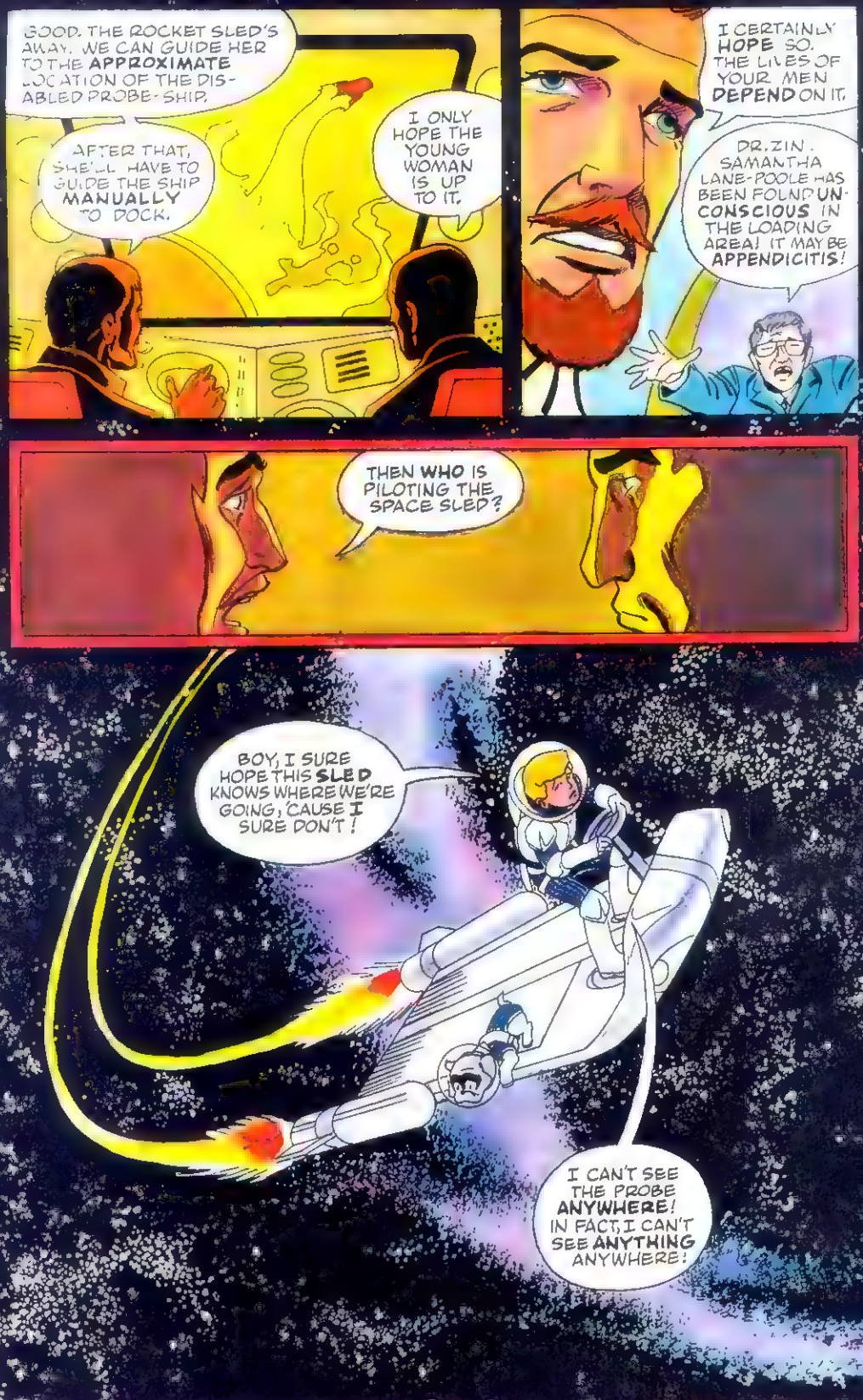

WE'D BETTER **HURRY**, MS. LANE-POOLE. DAD SAYS THERE'RE ONLY ABOUT TWO HOURS LEFT.
JUST A SEC. I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS STOMACH GOOP.


WHAT'S **THAT** FOR?
MY **ULCER.** OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD OF CAT BURGLARS.

OOHHHH! THE **PAIN!**


MA'AM...? MS. WEASEL...? SHE'S **UNCONSCIOUS.**
NOW WHAT DO WE DO? SOMEBODY REALLY **SMALL** HAS TO GO THROUGH THAT VENT AND OPEN THE DOORS. SOMEBODY...


COME ON, BANDIT! WE'LL TELL A GUARD ABOUT MS. LANE-POOLE... THEN FIND OUR SPACE SUITS, QUICK!

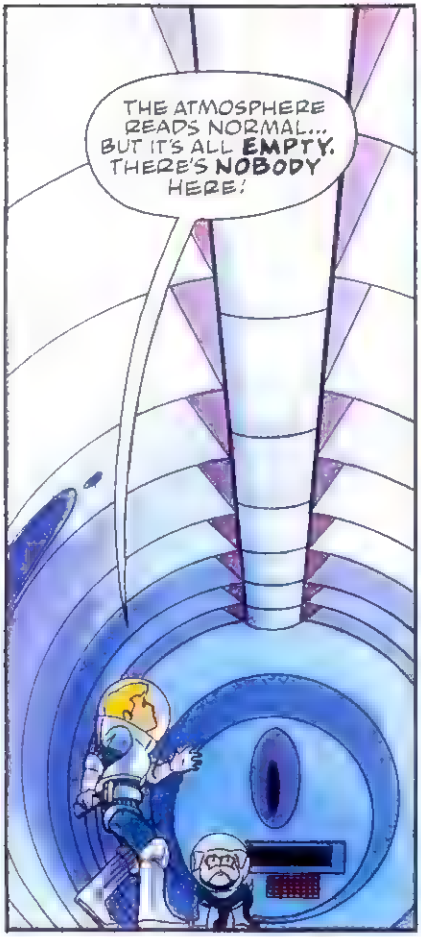

GOOD. THE ROCKET SLED'S AWAY. WE CAN GUIDE HER TO THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE DISABLED PROBE-SHIP.
AFTER THAT, SHE'LL HAVE TO GUIDE THE SHIP MANUALLY TO DOCK.
I ONLY HOPE THE YOUNG WOMAN IS UP TO IT.
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO. THE LIVES OF YOUR MEN DEPEND ON IT.
DR. ZIN. SAMANTHA LANE-POOLE HAS BEEN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS IN THE LOADING AREA! IT MAY BE APPENDICITIS!
THEN WHO IS PILOTING THE SPACE SLED?
BOY, I SURE HOPE THIS SLED KNOWS WHERE WE'RE GOING, 'CAUSE I SURE DON'T!
I CAN'T SEE THE PROBE ANYWHERE! IN FACT, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYWHERE!

SURE IS QUIET AND BLACK OUT HERE, ISN'T IT, BOY?
I THOUGHT SPACE WAS FULL OF METEOR SHOWERS AND COMETS AND STUFF. BUT MOSTLY WHAT IT'S FULL OF IS NOTHING.
THERE'S SOMETHING. LOOKS REALLY OLD.
DAD TOLD ME THERE'S A LOT OF OLD SATELLITES IN SPACE THAT FOLKS HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT. THEY'RE JUST DERELICTS, HE SAID.
SOME SCIENTISTS SAY THAT THERE COULD BE SO MANY OLD SATELLITES THAT THEY COULD GET IN THE WAY OF ROCKETS AND STUFF.
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SPACE STATION... NOBODY'S TRIED TO RADIO US.
THE SLED SHOULD BE IN VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE PROBE ANYTIME NOW... BUT I CAN'T ESTABLISH CONTACT. COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOWN.
MOST DISTURBING, INDEED.

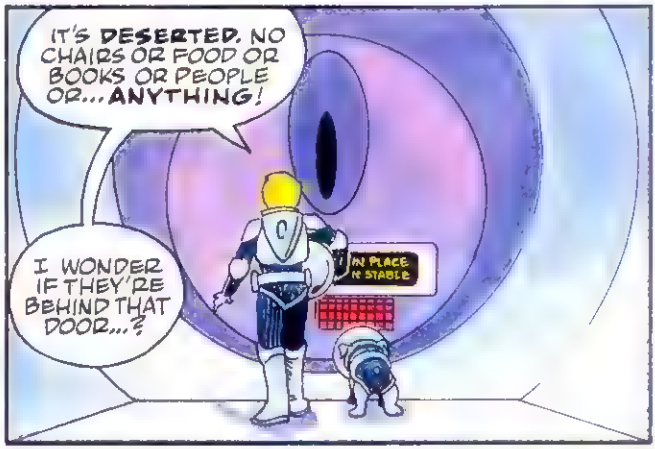
YIPES! WHAT WAS THAT?
OH-OH...LOOKS LIKE THOSE SATELLITES ARE GETTING CLOSER TOGETHER. I HOPE I CAN STEER THIS THING!
THE CONTROLS ARE KINDA LIKE OUR HOVERCRAFT BACK HOME.
DID IT!
OH, NO! MORE OF THEM!
DAD! DAD! HELP ME! THERE'RE TOO MANY OF THEM. I CAN'T DODGE THEM!
JONNY? MY GOD!

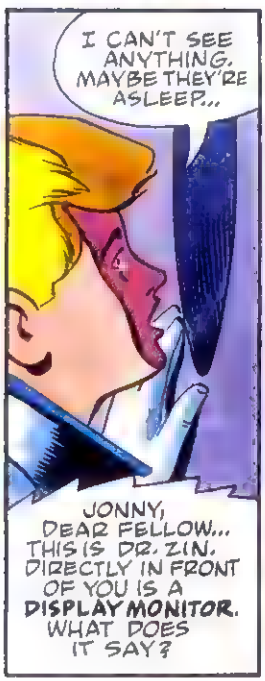
SON! LISTEN TO ME!
THIS MAY BE AN ORBITAL CLUSTER. IF AT RIGHT ANGLES TO IT, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GO OVER IT!
HOLD TIGHT, BOY! HERE WE GO!
WE MADE IT!
WOW! LOOK DOWN THERE, BANDIT!
YOU SHOULD SEE THIS, DAD! THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF OLD SATELLITES THERE!
A SARGASSO SEA IN SPACE? THIS MAY BE THE RESULT OF THE SECRET PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SATELLITE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE, SON?
WELL, SOMEBODY HAD TO GO WHEN MS. WEASEL FAINTED... AND I'M THE ONLY ONE SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT THROUGH THE VENT.
IT WAS LUCKY I WAS THERE... AND HAD A SPACE SUIT AND THAT I KNEW HOW TO FLY THIS SLED. I GUESS I GOT REAL LUCKY TODAY, HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, SON. UN-BELIEVABLY LUCKY.

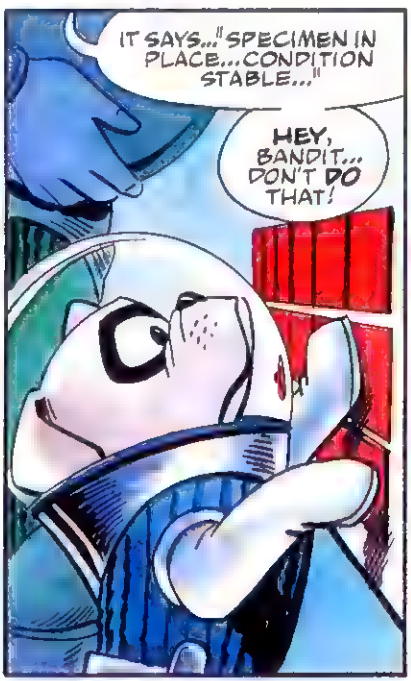
I CAN SEE IT, DAD. BOY, IS IT BIG!
I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY STOPPED SENDING SIGNALS. THEIR RADIO ANTENNA WAS SMASHED.
HURRY, SON! THERE'S VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT!
C'MON, BOY! THE VENT OPENING SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER THERE!
GOSH, THIS IS A LOT SMALLER THAN IT WAS IN YOUR DIAGRAM, DAD. I DON'T THINK MS. LANE-POOLE COULD HAVE FIT THROUGH HERE.
MMREEEP! BEEP!
AND NOW TO GET INSIDE...
WASTE DISPOSAL
WE DID IT! WE'RE INSIDE!
JUMP, BANDIT! THERE'S REAL GRAVITY IN HERE!

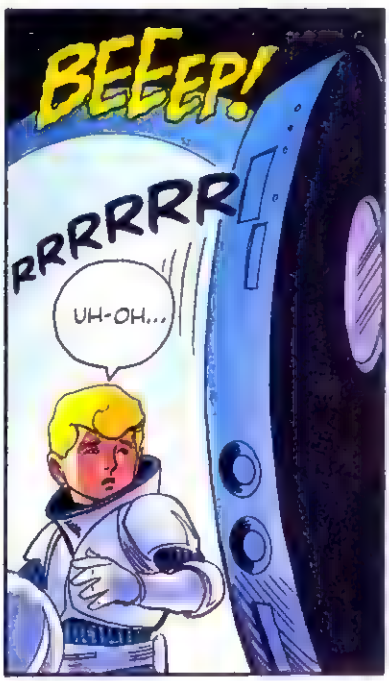

THE ATMOSPHERE READS NORMAL... BUT IT'S ALL **EMPTY.** THERE'S **NOBODY** HERE!

HELLO... IS ANYBODY HERE?
THIS IS JONNY QUEST AND BANDIT! WE'VE COME TO **SAVE** YOU!

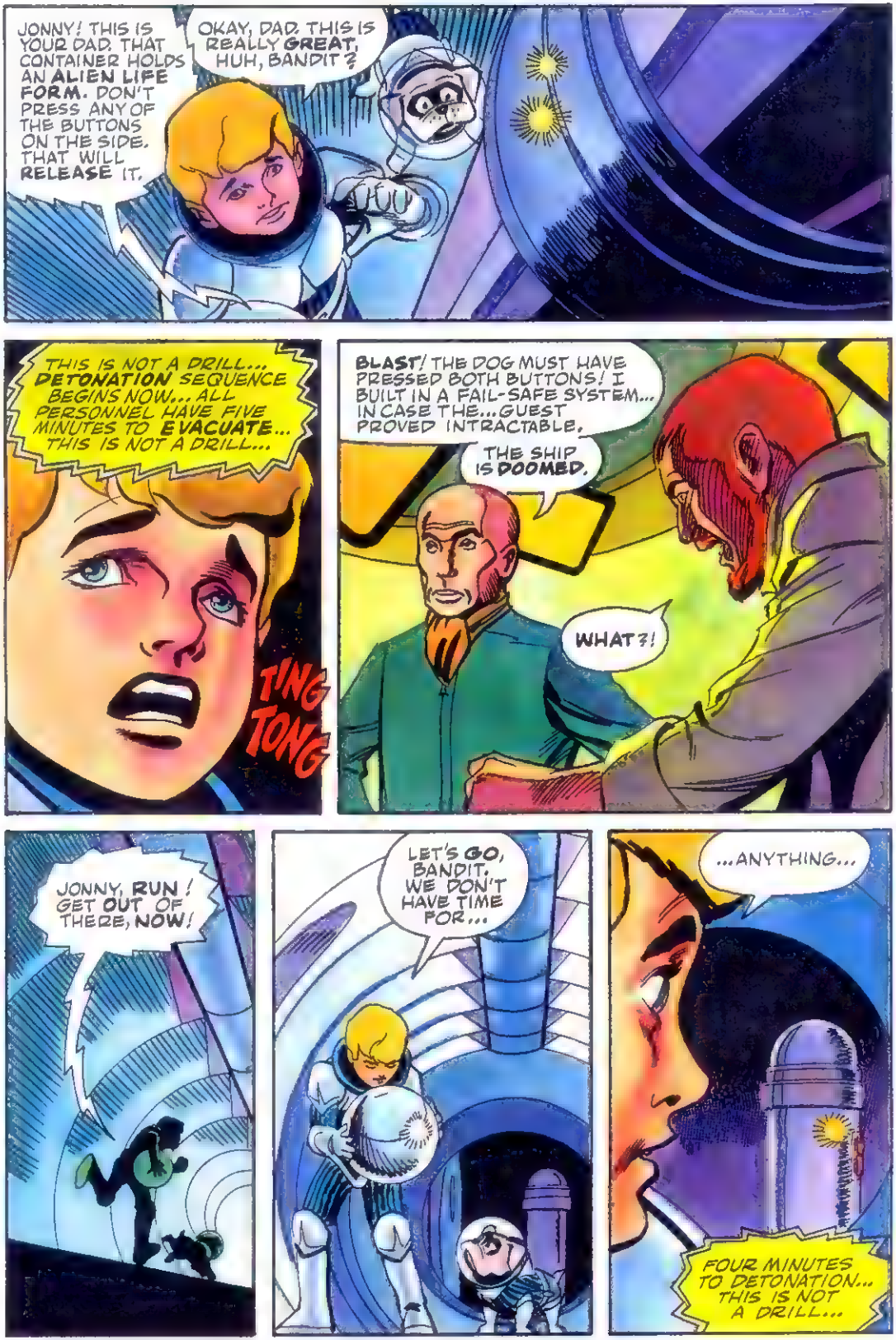

IT'S **DESERTED.** NO CHAIRS OR FOOD OR BOOKS OR PEOPLE OR... **ANYTHING!**
I WONDER IF THEY'RE BEHIND THAT DOOR...?
IN PLACE N STABLE

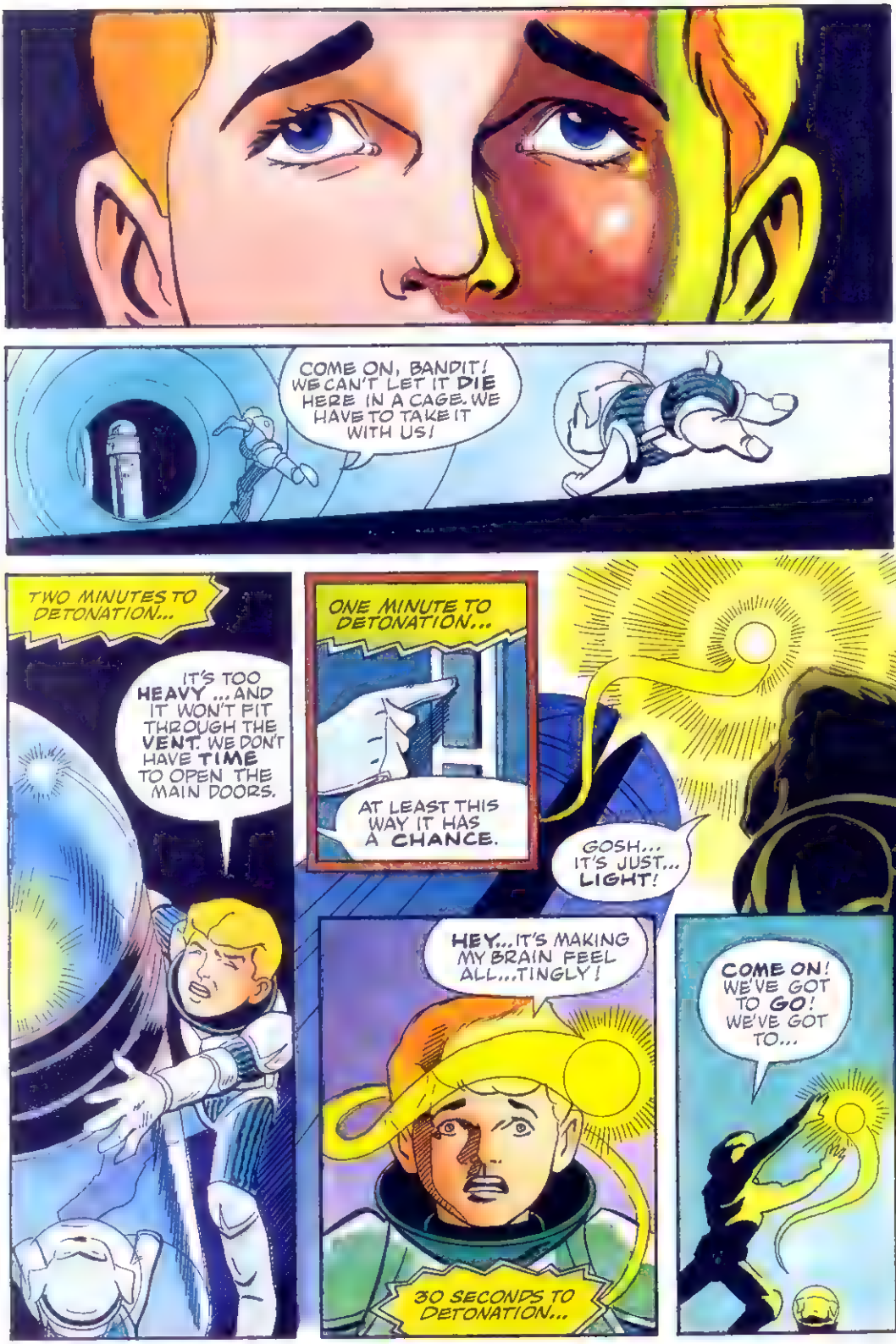

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING. MAYBE THEY'RE ASLEEP...
JONNY, DEAR FELLOW... THIS IS DR. ZIN. DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU IS A **DISPLAY MONITOR.** WHAT DOES IT SAY?


IT SAYS..." SPECIMEN IN PLACE...CONDITION STABLE..."
HEY, BANDIT... DON'T **DO** THAT!

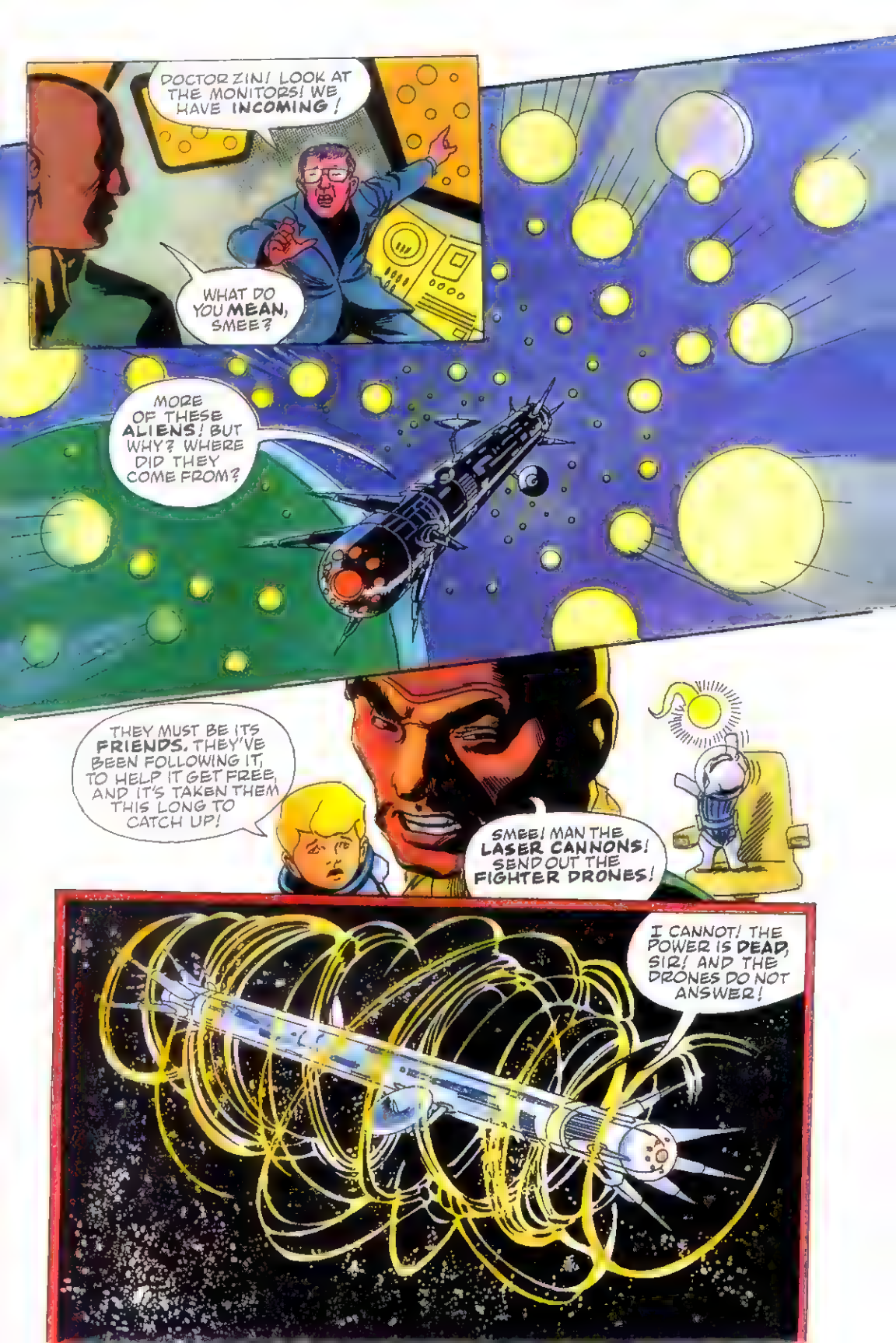

BEEEP!
RRRRRR
UH-OH...

ZIN! YOU PLANNED ALL THIS FROM THE BEGINNING!
THERE NEVER WAS A CREW, WAS THERE?
I PLEAD GUILTY TO A SMALL DECEPTION...
THAT SHIP WAS SENT OUT, NOT TO PROSPECT FOR ORES, BUT FOR LIFE... INTELLIGENT LIFE BEYOND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.
IT IS, IN ESSENCE, A GIANT MOUSETRAP, BAITED WITH A BINARY CODE. IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO RETURN WHEN IT HAD... UM... CAUGHT SOMETHING.
WHEN IT WAS DISABLED, I REALIZED ONLY A SMALL CHILD WOULD BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE INTO THE SHIP AND SALVAGE MY PRIZE... A MOST RESOURCEFUL CHILD.
NATURALLY, I THOUGHT OF YOUR SON.
AND AFTER ALL, DOCTOR, JONNY IS THE FIRST WITNESS TO EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE... A GREAT HONOR.
AND HE IS IN NO GREAT DANGER.
WOW! IS THAT EVER NEAT-LOOKING!


JONNY! THIS IS YOUR DAD. THAT CONTAINER HOLDS AN ALIEN LIFE FORM. DON'T PRESS ANY OF THE BUTTONS ON THE SIDE. THAT WILL RELEASE IT.
OKAY, DAD. THIS IS REALLY GREAT, HUH, BANDIT?
THIS IS NOT A DRILL... DETONATION SEQUENCE BEGINS NOW... ALL PERSONNEL HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO EVACUATE... THIS IS NOT A DRILL...
TING TONG
BLAST! THE DOG MUST HAVE PRESSED BOTH BUTTONS! I BUILT IN A FAIL-SAFE SYSTEM... IN CASE THE...GUEST PROVED INTRACTABLE.
THE SHIP IS DOOMED.
WHAT?!
JONNY, RUN! GET OUT OF THERE, NOW!
LET'S GO, BANDIT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR...
...ANYTHING...
FOUR MINUTES TO DETONATION... THIS IS NOT A DRILL...


COME ON, BANDIT! WE CAN'T LET IT DIE HERE IN A CAGE. WE HAVE TO TAKE IT WITH US!
TWO MINUTES TO DETONATION...
IT'S TOO HEAVY ... AND IT WON'T FIT THROUGH THE VENT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO OPEN THE MAIN DOORS.
ONE MINUTE TO DETONATION...
AT LEAST THIS WAY IT HAS A CHANCE.
GOSH... IT'S JUST... LIGHT!
HEY... IT'S MAKING MY BRAIN FEEL ALL...TINGLY!
30 SECONDS TO DETONATION...
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GO! WE'VE GOT TO...

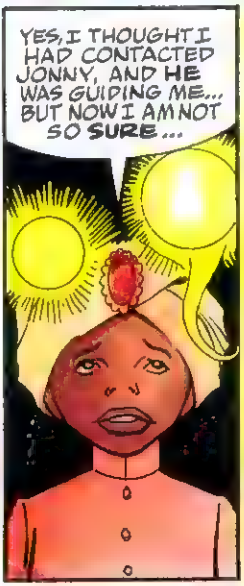
AND THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT. I GRIEVE FOR YOUR LOSS, DOCTOR.
YOU GRIEVE? I'LL SHOW YOU GRIEF, YOU COLD-BLOODED SLIME! YOU KILLED MY SON! I'LL...
I'LL SEE YOU IN HADES, ZIN! I'LL...
JONNY?
WHAT THE DEVIL?
OH, JONNY...!
WHAT MANNER OF ANIMAL IS THAT THING?
A CREATURE OF PURE THOUGHT...PURE ENERGY... OF ALMOST LIMIT-LESS POWER.
I WONDER IF IT'S ANGRY BECAUSE YOU JUST TRIED TO BLOW IT TO BITS, ZIN?


DOCTOR ZIN! LOOK AT THE MONITORS! WE HAVE INCOMING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SMEE?
MORE OF THESE ALIENS! BUT WHY? WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
THEY MUST BE ITS FRIENDS. THEY'VE BEEN FOLLOWING IT, TO HELP IT GET FREE, AND IT'S TAKEN THEM THIS LONG TO CATCH UP!
SMEE! MAN THE LASER CANNONS! SEND OUT THE FIGHTER DRONES!
I CANNOT! THE POWER IS DEAD, SIR! AND THE DRONES DO NOT ANSWER!

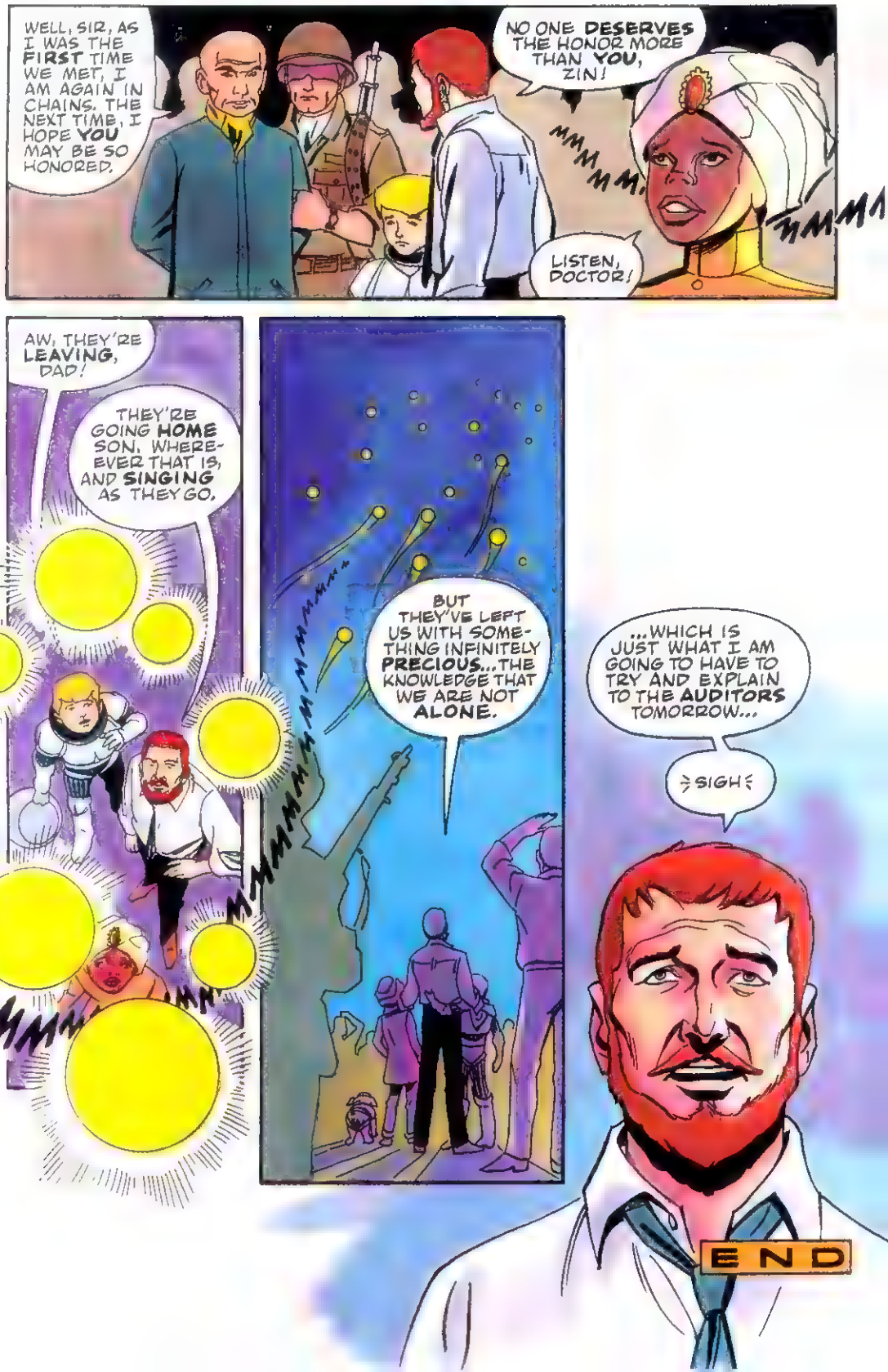
WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF WEAPON?
FEEL... SO LIGHT-HEADED... AS IF I WERE...
...FALLING...!
GOOD LORD! THEY'VE TRANSPORTED EVERY LIVING CREATURE FROM THE SPACE STATION TO EARTH... WHEREVER WE ARE.
MY LAUNCHING BASE, DOCTOR... AND WHATEVER THEIR INTENTIONS, THEY HAVE SERIOUSLY ERRED...
...BECAUSE HERE I AM KING!
SMEE! ALERT THE GUARDS TO USE THE STUN-GAS ON THOSE THINGS. CAPTURE AS MANY AS YOU CAN. THEY WILL BE MY GREATEST WEAPONS!
SORRY, DOC... ALL THE GUARDS ARE RESTING!

SEE, WE ARRIVED QUITE A WHILE AGO, FOLLOWING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS BEAM, AND WE WERE JUST WONDERING HOW TO GO UP AND GET YOU, WHEN DOWN YOU CAME.
TALK ABOUT SERVICE!

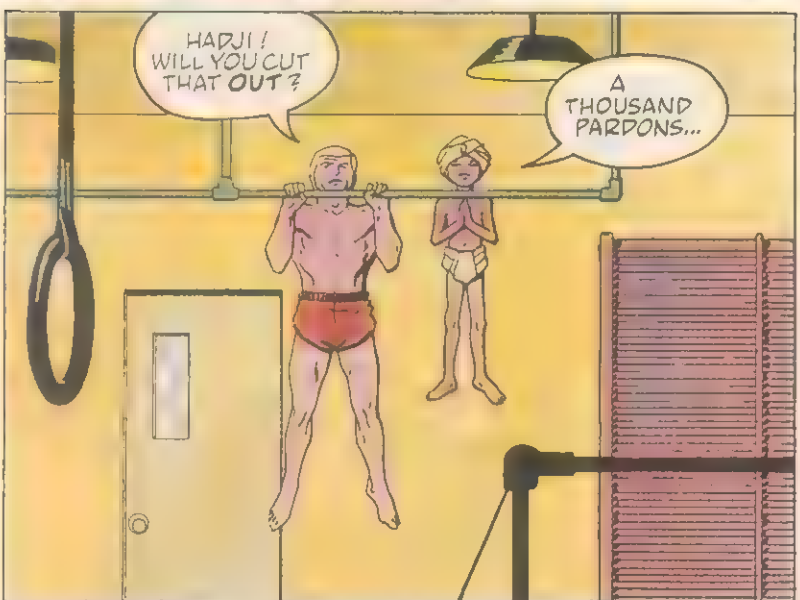
RACE! YOU GOT HERE!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND. BUT HOW...?
ASK HADJI. HE'S THE ONE WHO HAD THE VOICES IN HIS HEAD.


YES, I THOUGHT I HAD CONTACTED JONNY, AND HE WAS GUIDING ME... BUT NOW I AM NOT SO SURE...

LOOK, DAD! BANDIT FINALLY LEARNED HIS TRICK.
SOMEHOW, SON, I THINK HE'S NOT QUITE DOING IT SOLO!


WELL, SIR, AS I WAS THE FIRST TIME WE MET, I AM AGAIN IN CHAINS. THE NEXT TIME, I HOPE YOU MAY BE SO HONORED.
NO ONE DESERVES THE HONOR MORE THAN YOU, ZIN!
MMMM.
LISTEN, DOCTOR!
MMMM
AW, THEY'RE LEAVING, DAD!
THEY'RE GOING HOME SON, WHEREVER THAT IS, AND SINGING AS THEY GO.
MMMMMMMMMM
BUT THEY'VE LEFT US WITH SOMETHING INFINITELY PRECIOUS...THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE.
...WHICH IS JUST WHAT I AM GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AND EXPLAIN TO THE AUDITORS TOMORROW...
SIGH
END

THE SINS OF ZON



STORY:
WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEBS

PENCILS & INKS:
MARC HEMPEL

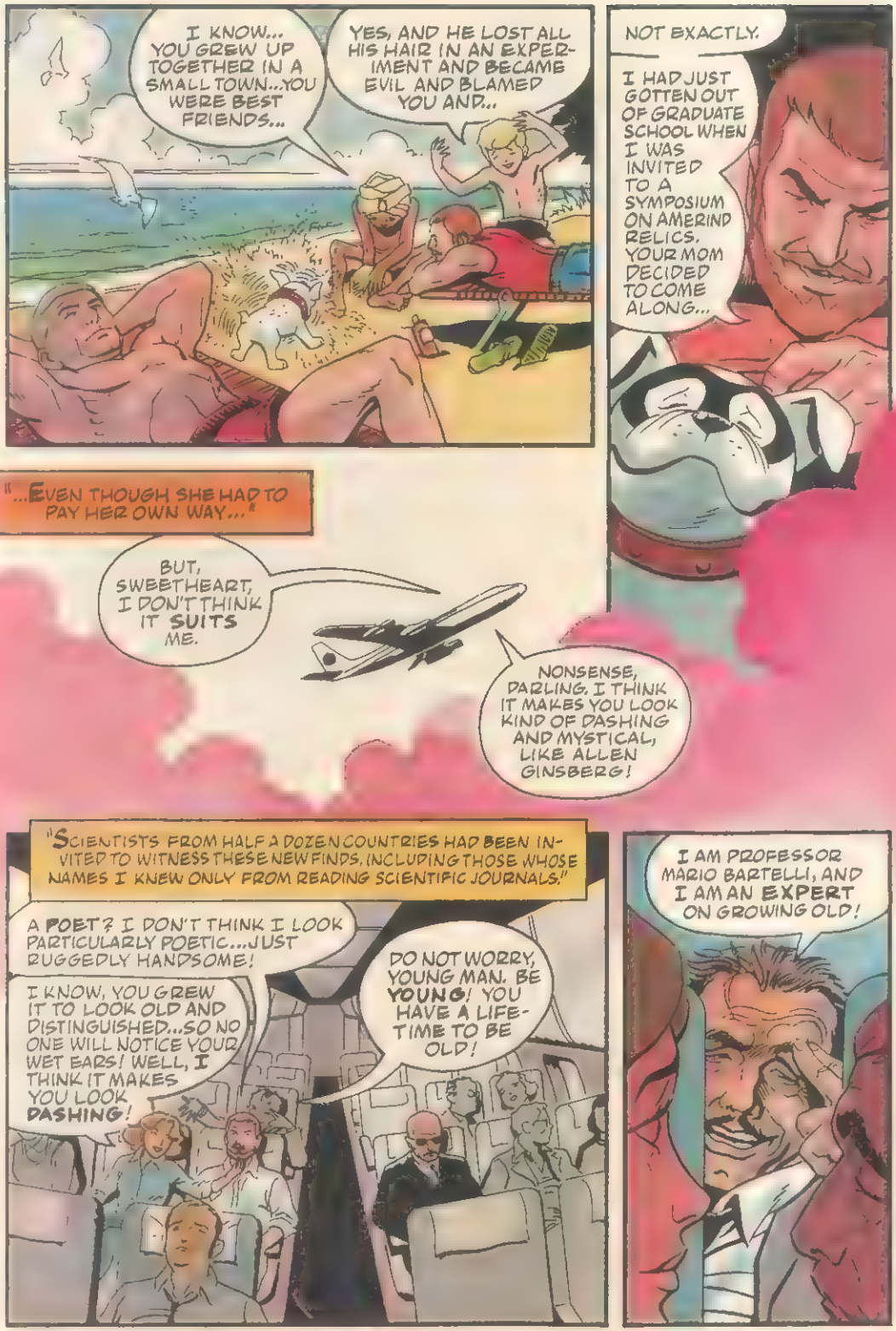
COLORS:
MARK WHEATLEY
KATHRYN MAYER

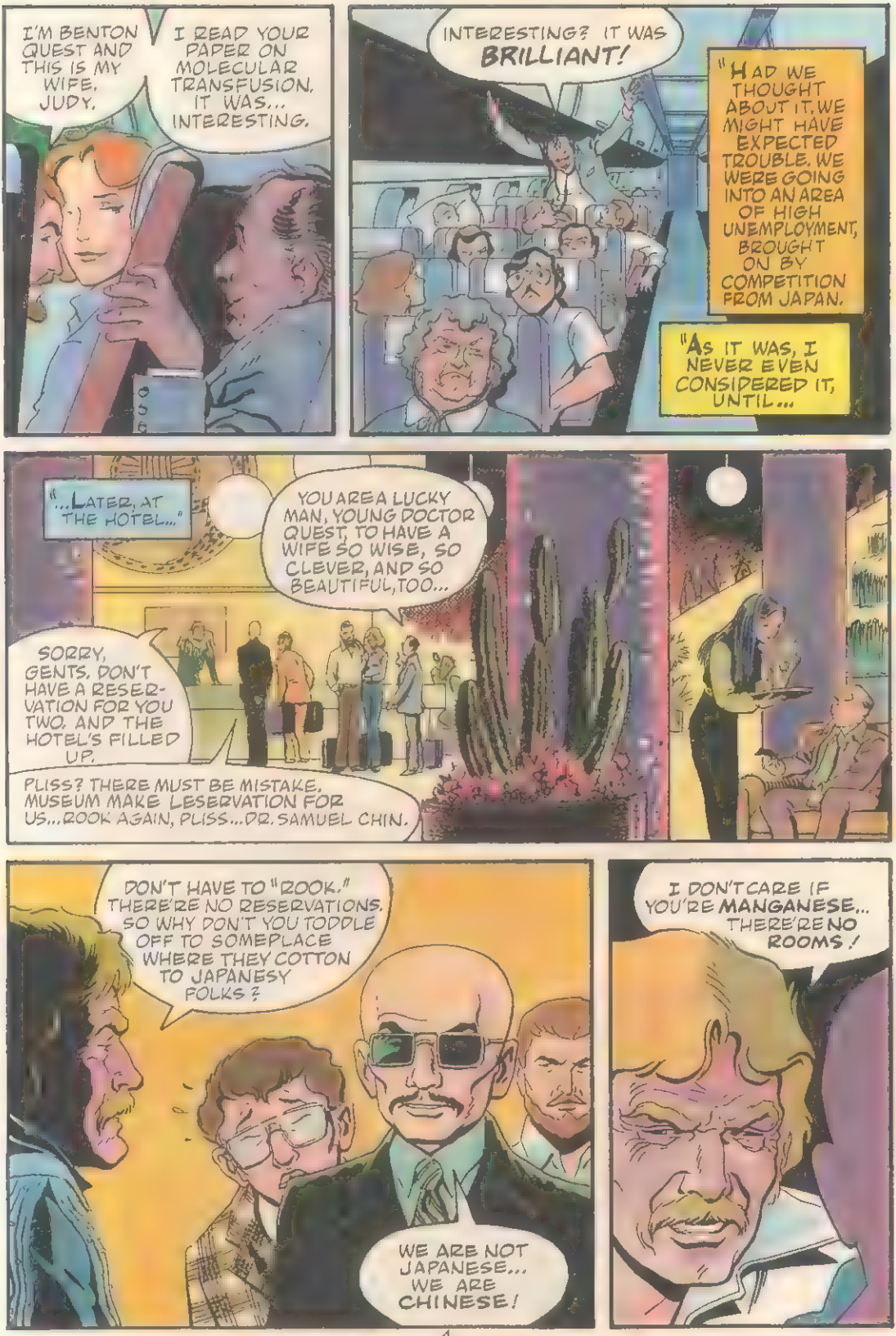
LETTERS:
HEMPEL & MAYER

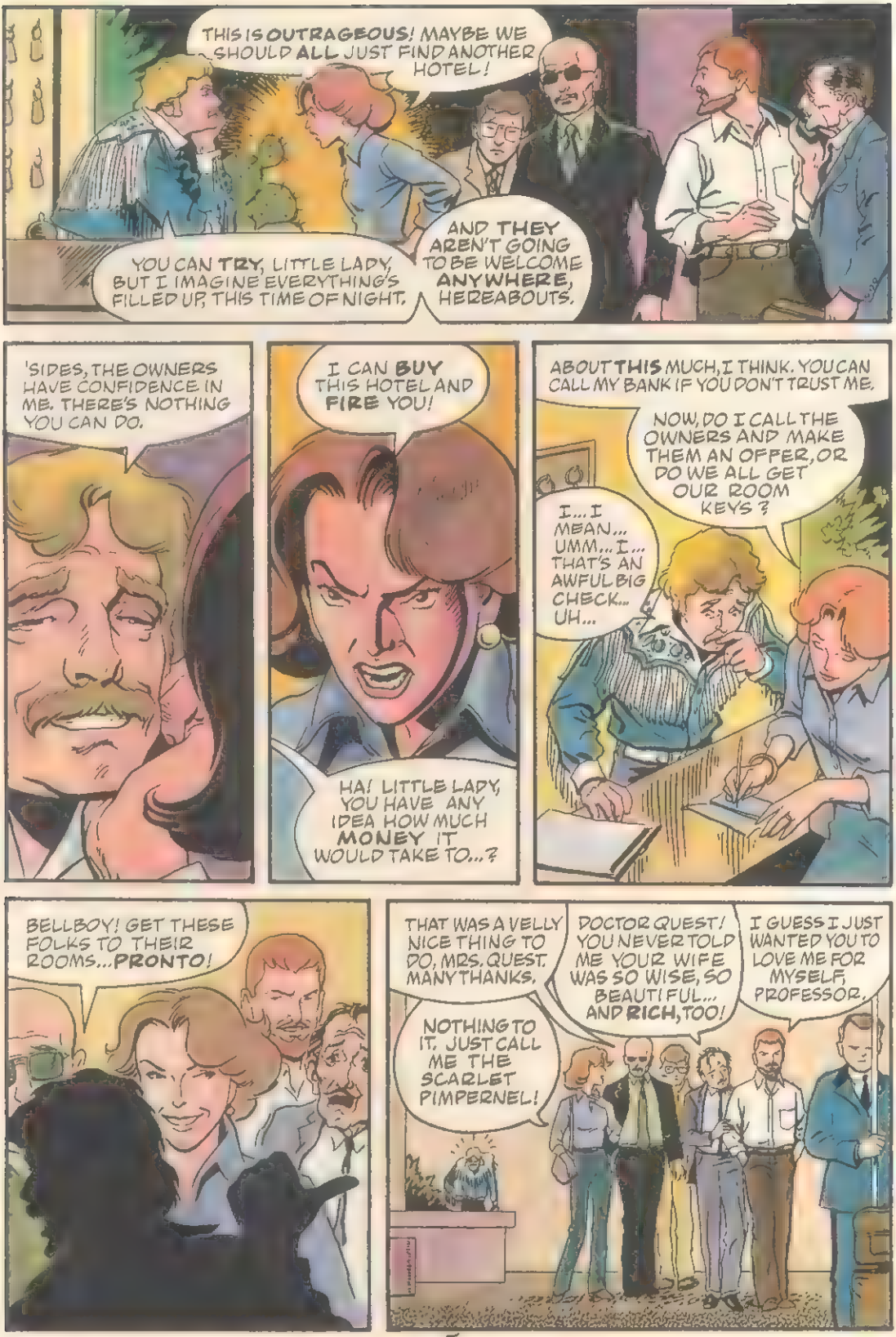
CONFESSOR:
DIANA SCHUTZ

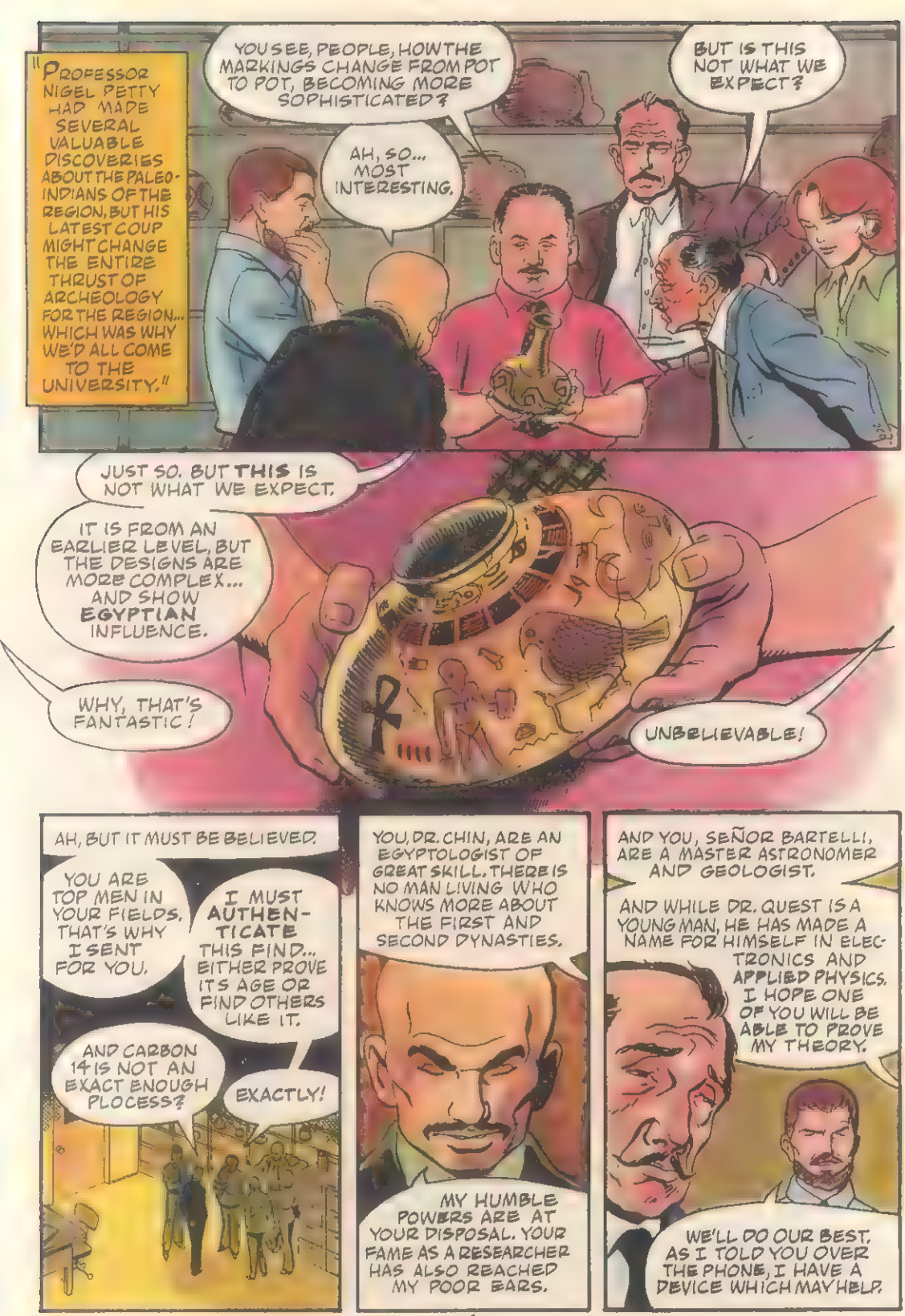
JONNY QUEST #15, August 1987. Published by **COMICO The Comic Company,** 1547 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA 19401. [illegible] 1987 Hanna Barbera Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. All other material [illegible] © 1987 Comico The Comic Company. All rights reserved. No similarity between any [illegible] persons and [illegible] institutions in this publication and those of any existing or pre-existing person or [illegible] which may exist is purely coincidental. **JONNY QUEST** is published monthly. Printed [illegible] U.S.A.

YOU DO NOT LOOK GOOD, RACE. DR. QUEST SAID YOU WERE TO REST...
RIGHT. WELL, I AM RESTING...SORT OF. A LITTLE EXERCISE HELPS ME REST.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO WORK THE STIFFNESS OUT OF THIS... =ugghh= SHOULDER.
IT'S BEEN KILLING ME LATELY. I CAN'T SLEEP... CAN'T MOVE IT, SOME DAYS.
I THOUGHT THE ARROW WOUND HAD HEALED, RACE.
THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME, BUT I FEEL LIKE GARBAGE, KID. I DON'T HAVE ANY ENERGY AND MY BACK'S KILLING ME.
I THINK I'LL GO AND LIE IN THE SUN A WHILE.
OH, BY THE WAY, HAJ... DON'T TELL DR. QUEST ABOUT THIS. HE'LL ONLY WORRY.
VERY WELL. I SHALL BE SILENT AS THE DEAD.
UH, THANKS...
GOSH, DAD...WHAT DID DR. ZIN MEAN LAST WEEK, WHEN HE SAID, "JUST AS THE FIRST TIME WE MET, I AM IN CHAINS"?
DID YOU KNOW EACH OTHER A LONG TIME AGO?
WELL...YES. BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, AT ANY RATE.

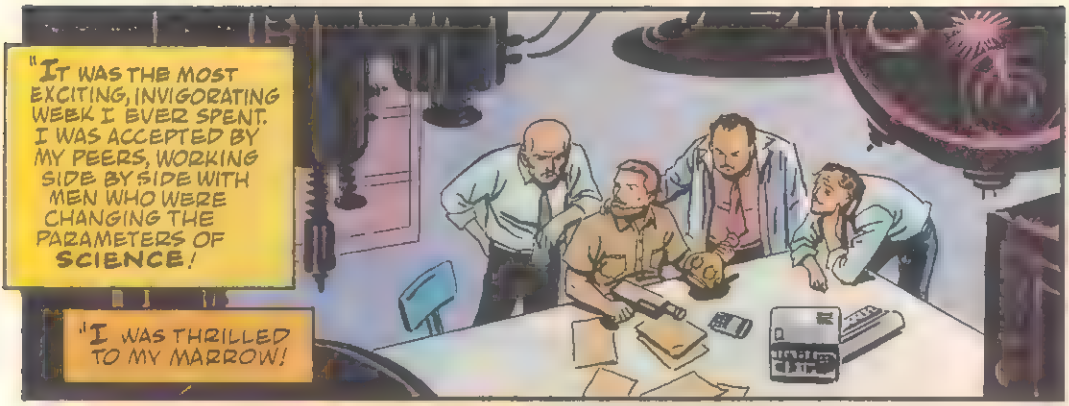

I KNOW... YOU GREW UP TOGETHER IN A SMALL TOWN...YOU WERE BEST FRIENDS...
YES, AND HE LOST ALL HIS HAIR IN AN EXPERIMENT AND BECAME EVIL AND BLAMED YOU AND...
NOT EXACTLY.
I HAD JUST GOTTEN OUT OF GRADUATE SCHOOL WHEN I WAS INVITED TO A SYMPOSIUM ON AMERIND RELICS. YOUR MOM DECIDED TO COME ALONG...
"...EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD TO PAY HER OWN WAY..."
BUT, SWEETHEART, I DON'T THINK IT SUITS ME.
NONSENSE, DARLING, I THINK IT MAKES YOU LOOK KIND OF DASHING AND MYSTICAL, LIKE ALLEN GINSBERG!
"SCIENTISTS FROM HALF A DOZEN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INVITED TO WITNESS THESE NEW FINDS, INCLUDING THOSE WHOSE NAMES I KNEW ONLY FROM READING SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS."
A POET? I DON'T THINK I LOOK PARTICULARLY POETIC...JUST RUGGEDLY HANDSOME!
I KNOW, YOU GREW IT TO LOOK OLD AND DISTINGUISHED...SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOUR WET EARS! WELL, I THINK IT MAKES YOU LOOK DASHING!
DO NOT WORRY, YOUNG MAN. BE YOUNG! YOU HAVE A LIFETIME TO BE OLD!
I AM PROFESSOR MARIO BARTELLI, AND I AM AN EXPERT ON GROWING OLD!

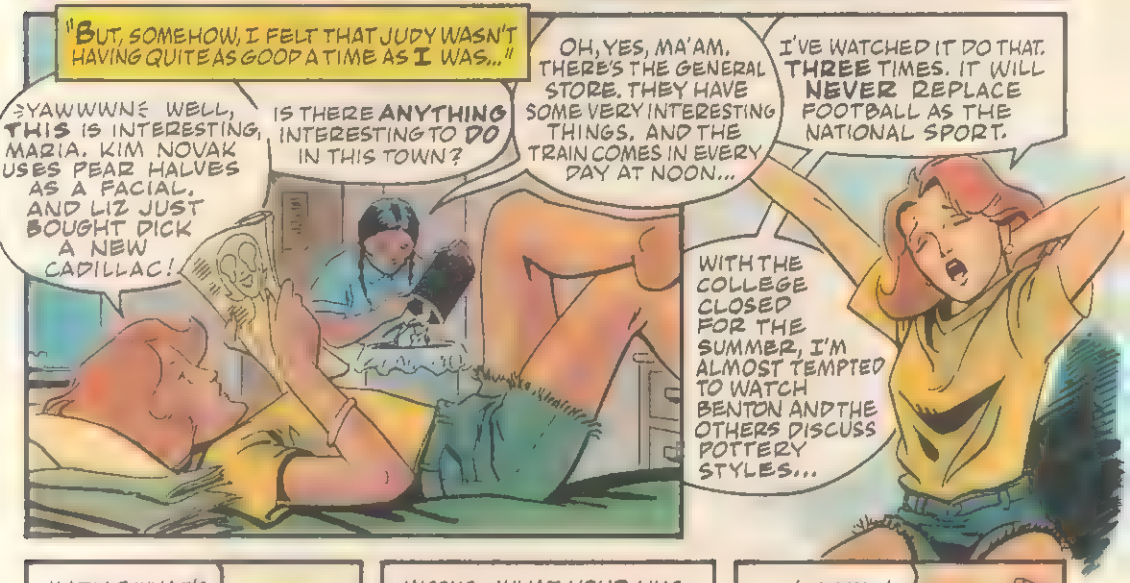

I'M BENTON QUEST AND THIS IS MY WIFE, JUDY.
I READ YOUR PAPER ON MOLECULAR TRANSFUSION. IT WAS... INTERESTING.
INTERESTING? IT WAS BRILLIANT!
"HAD WE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, WE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED TROUBLE. WE WERE GOING INTO AN AREA OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, BROUGHT ON BY COMPETITION FROM JAPAN.
"AS IT WAS, I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED IT, UNTIL...
"...LATER, AT THE HOTEL..."
YOU ARE A LUCKY MAN, YOUNG DOCTOR QUEST, TO HAVE A WIFE SO WISE, SO CLEVER, AND SO BEAUTIFUL, TOO...
SORRY, GENTS. DON'T HAVE A RESERVATION FOR YOU TWO. AND THE HOTEL'S FILLED UP.
PLISS? THERE MUST BE MISTAKE. MUSEUM MAKE LESERVATION FOR US...ROOK AGAIN, PLISS...DR. SAMUEL CHIN.
DON'T HAVE TO "ROOK." THERE'RE NO RESERVATIONS. SO WHY DON'T YOU TODDLE OFF TO SOMEPLACE WHERE THEY COTTON TO JAPANESY FOLKS?
WE ARE NOT JAPANESE... WE ARE CHINESE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE MANGANESE... THERE'RE NO ROOMS!

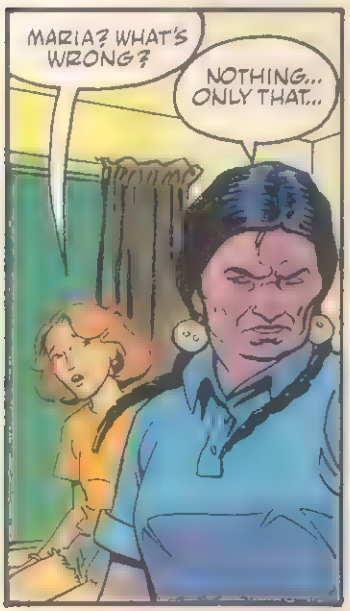

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL JUST FIND ANOTHER HOTEL!
YOU CAN TRY, LITTLE LADY, BUT I IMAGINE EVERYTHING'S FILLED UP, THIS TIME OF NIGHT.
AND THEY AREN'T GOING TO BE WELCOME ANYWHERE, HEREABOUTS.
'SIDES, THE OWNERS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ME. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
I CAN BUY THIS HOTEL AND FIRE YOU!
HA! LITTLE LADY, YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH MONEY IT WOULD TAKE TO...?
ABOUT THIS MUCH, I THINK. YOU CAN CALL MY BANK IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME.
NOW, DO I CALL THE OWNERS AND MAKE THEM AN OFFER, OR DO WE ALL GET OUR ROOM KEYS?
I... I MEAN... UMM... I... THAT'S AN AWFUL BIG CHECK... UH...
BELLBOY! GET THESE FOLKS TO THEIR ROOMS... PRONTO!
THAT WAS A VELLY NICE THING TO DO, MRS. QUEST. MANY THANKS.
NOTHING TO IT. JUST CALL ME THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL!
DOCTOR QUEST! YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR WIFE WAS SO WISE, SO BEAUTIFUL... AND RICH, TOO!
I GUESS I JUST WANTED YOU TO LOVE ME FOR MYSELF, PROFESSOR.

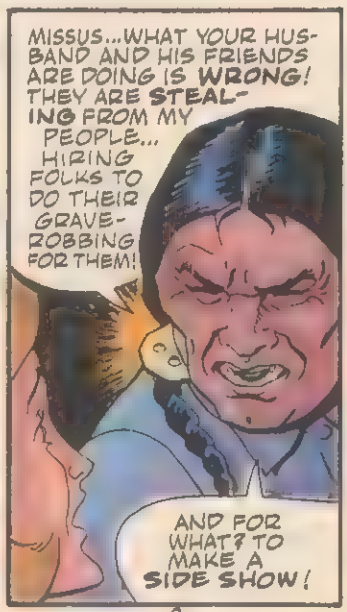

"PROFESSOR NIGEL PETTY HAD MADE SEVERAL VALUABLE DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE PALEO-INDIANS OF THE REGION, BUT HIS LATEST COUP MIGHT CHANGE THE ENTIRE THRUST OF ARCHEOLOGY FOR THE REGION... WHICH WAS WHY WE'D ALL COME TO THE UNIVERSITY."
YOU SEE, PEOPLE, HOW THE MARKINGS CHANGE FROM POT TO POT, BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED?
AH, SO... MOST INTERESTING.
BUT IS THIS NOT WHAT WE EXPECT?
JUST SO. BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT WE EXPECT.
IT IS FROM AN EARLIER LEVEL, BUT THE DESIGNS ARE MORE COMPLEX... AND SHOW EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE.
WHY, THAT'S FANTASTIC!
UNBELIEVABLE!
AH, BUT IT MUST BE BELIEVED.
YOU ARE TOP MEN IN YOUR FIELDS. THAT'S WHY I SENT FOR YOU.
I MUST AUTHENTICATE THIS FIND... EITHER PROVE ITS AGE OR FIND OTHERS LIKE IT.
AND CARBON 14 IS NOT AN EXACT ENOUGH PLOCESS?
EXACTLY!
YOU, DR. CHIN, ARE AN EGYPTOLOGIST OF GREAT SKILL. THERE IS NO MAN LIVING WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE FIRST AND SECOND DYNASTIES.
MY HUMBLE POWERS ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. YOUR FAME AS A RESEARCHER HAS ALSO REACHED MY POOR EARS.
AND YOU, SEÑOR BARTELLI, ARE A MASTER ASTRONOMER AND GEOLOGIST.
AND WHILE DR. QUEST IS A YOUNG MAN, HE HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN ELECTRONICS AND APPLIED PHYSICS. I HOPE ONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE MY THEORY.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, AS I TOLD YOU OVER THE PHONE, I HAVE A DEVICE WHICH MAY HELP.

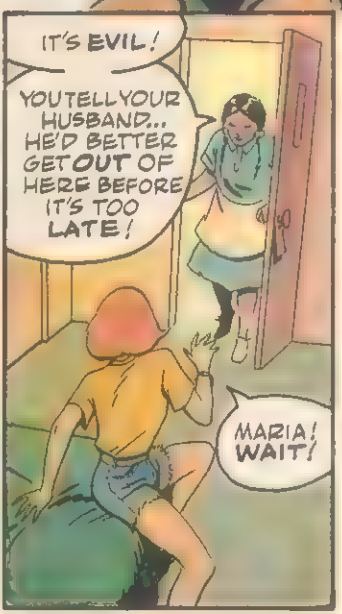
AS YOU KNOW, CARBON 14 DATING HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE SOMEWHAT INACCURATE IN DATING VERY ANCIENT FINDS.
THIS MACHINE COMBINES RADIOACTIVE SCANNING WITH SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS, AND USES COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR INCONSISTENCIES.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE DATA PRODUCED AREN'T FINE ENOUGH YET TO DO US MUCH GOOD. BUT I BROUGHT IT ALONG TO CONTINUE TESTING.
PERHAPS WITH FURTHER CALIBRATION...
DON'T YOU LOVE IT WHEN HE TALKS HIGH-TECH?
WHERE DO THESE RELICS COME FROM, PROFESSOR PETTY?
WE HAVE MANY SOURCES. THE LOCALS DONATE A GOOD NUMBER... UNFORTUNATELY THEY DON'T ALWAYS REMEMBER WHERE THEY FOUND THEM.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE ARE FINDING THE TRUTH...THE ENDLESS RECORD OF MAN'S STRIVING UPWARD, AND PRESERVING IT FOR ALL TIME.
IT'S HARD WORK, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS SUCCEED... BUT WE TRY. AT LEAST WE TRY.
ARE YOU GOING TO START STRIVING UPWARD ALL AT ONCE, OR DO YOU WANT TO HAVE LUNCH FIRST?
OH, JUDY!


"IT WAS THE MOST EXCITING, INVIGORATING WEEK I EVER SPENT. I WAS ACCEPTED BY MY PEERS, WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH MEN WHO WERE CHANGING THE PARAMETERS OF SCIENCE!
"I WAS THRILLED TO MY MARROW!

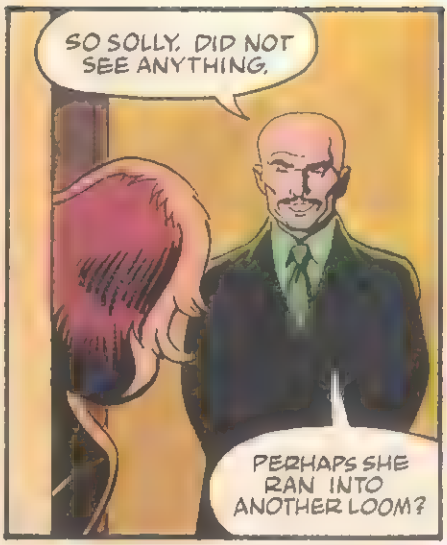

"BUT, SOMEHOW, I FELT THAT JUDY WASN'T HAVING QUITE AS GOOD A TIME AS I WAS..."
YAWWWN! WELL, THIS IS INTERESTING, MARIA. KIM NOVAK USES PEAR HALVES AS A FACIAL, AND LIZ JUST BOUGHT DICK A NEW CADILLAC!
IS THERE ANYTHING INTERESTING TO DO IN THIS TOWN?
OH, YES, MA'AM. THERE'S THE GENERAL STORE. THEY HAVE SOME VERY INTERESTING THINGS, AND THE TRAIN COMES IN EVERY DAY AT NOON...
I'VE WATCHED IT DO THAT. THREE TIMES. IT WILL NEVER REPLACE FOOTBALL AS THE NATIONAL SPORT.
WITH THE COLLEGE CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER, I'M ALMOST TEMPTED TO WATCH BENTON AND THE OTHERS DISCUSS POTTERY STYLES...

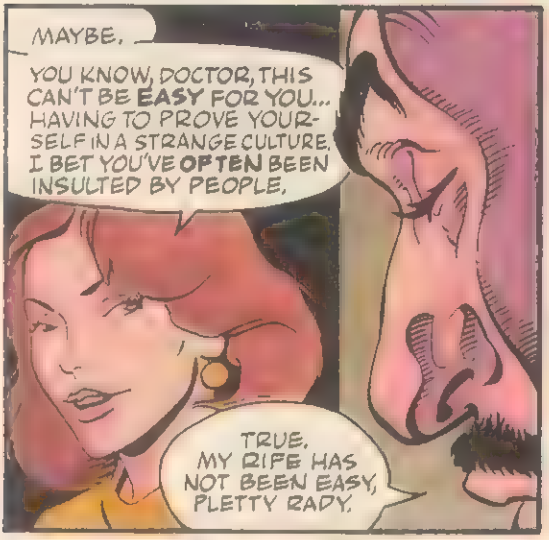

MARIA? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING... ONLY THAT...

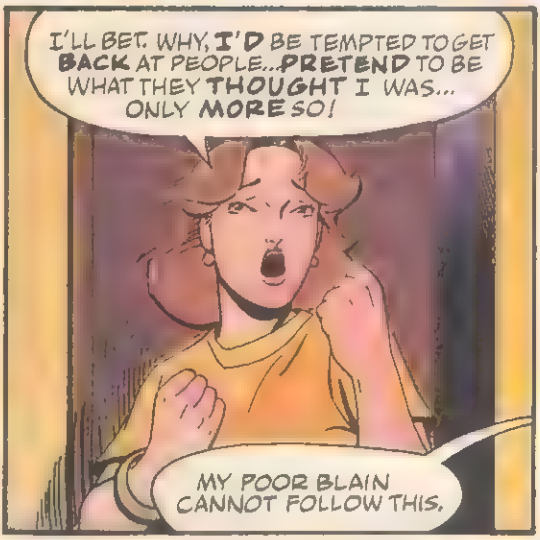

MISSUS...WHAT YOUR HUSBAND AND HIS FRIENDS ARE DOING IS WRONG! THEY ARE STEALING FROM MY PEOPLE... HIRING FOLKS TO DO THEIR GRAVE-ROBBING FOR THEM!
AND FOR WHAT? TO MAKE A SIDE SHOW!

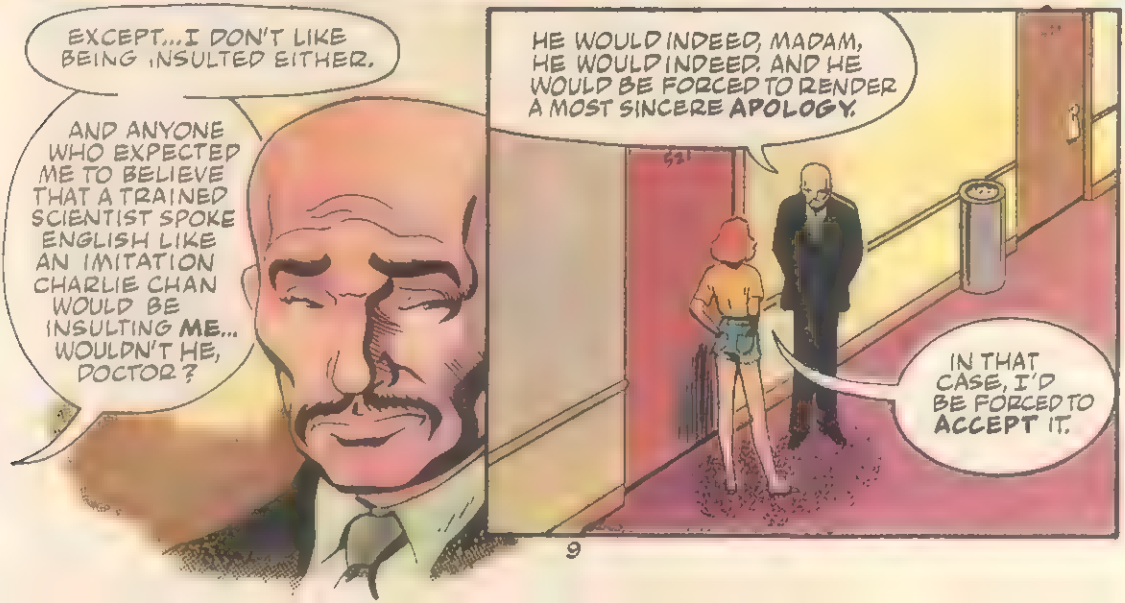

IT'S EVIL!
YOU TELL YOUR HUSBAND... HE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
MARIA! WAIT!

MARIA! JUST...OH!
HELLO, DR. CHIN. DID YOU SEE WHERE MARIA WENT?


SO SOLLY. DID NOT SEE ANYTHING.
PERHAPS SHE RAN INTO ANOTHER LOOM?

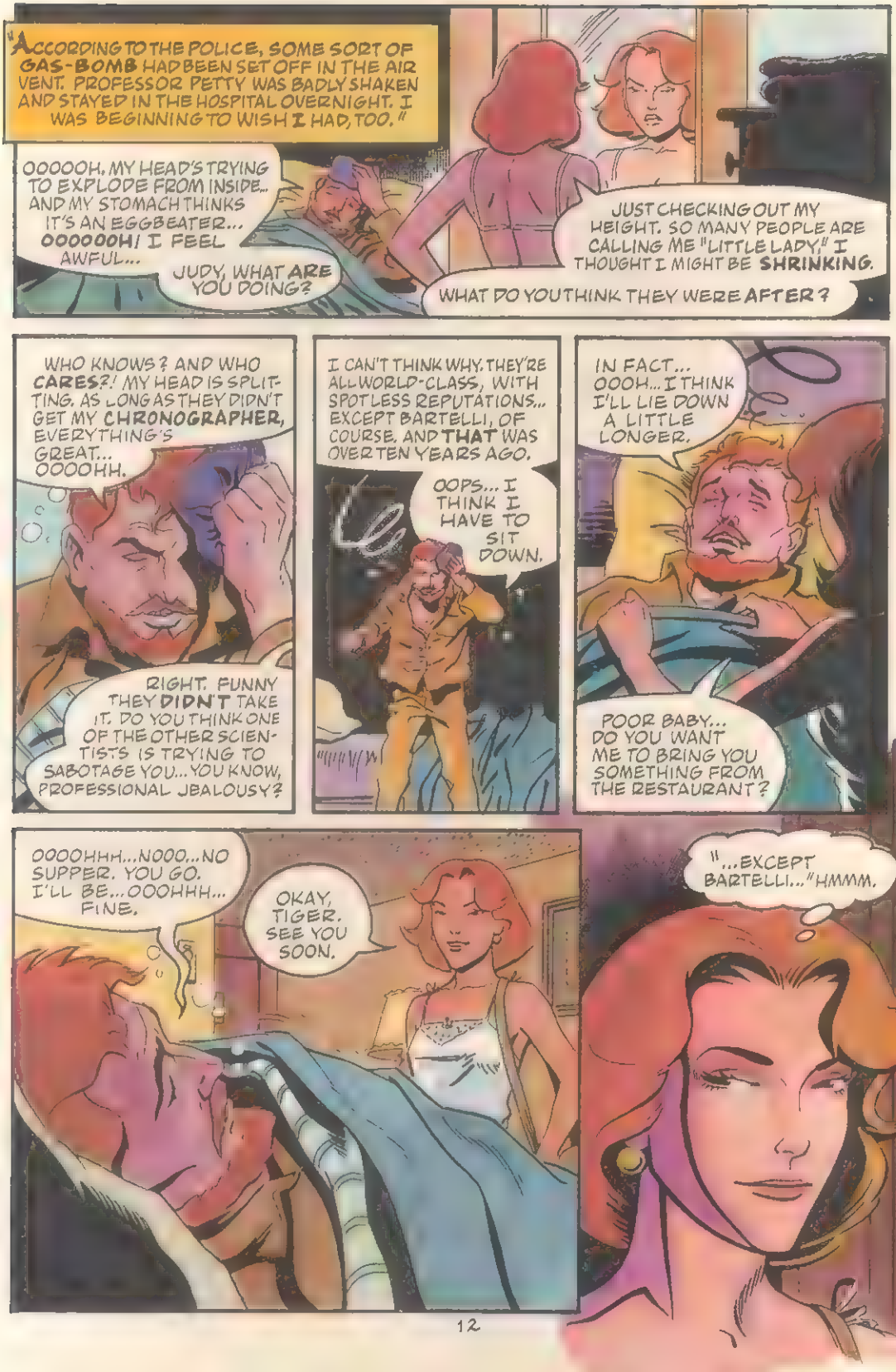

MAYBE.
YOU KNOW, DOCTOR, THIS CAN'T BE **EASY** FOR YOU... HAVING TO PROVE YOURSELF IN A STRANGE CULTURE. I BET YOU'VE **OFTEN** BEEN INSULTED BY PEOPLE.
TRUE. MY RIFE HAS NOT BEEN EASY, PLETTY RADY.


I'LL BET. WHY, **I'D** BE TEMPTED TO GET **BACK** AT PEOPLE...**PRETEND** TO BE WHAT THEY **THOUGHT** I WAS... ONLY **MORE** SO!
MY POOR BLAIN CANNOT FOLLOW THIS.

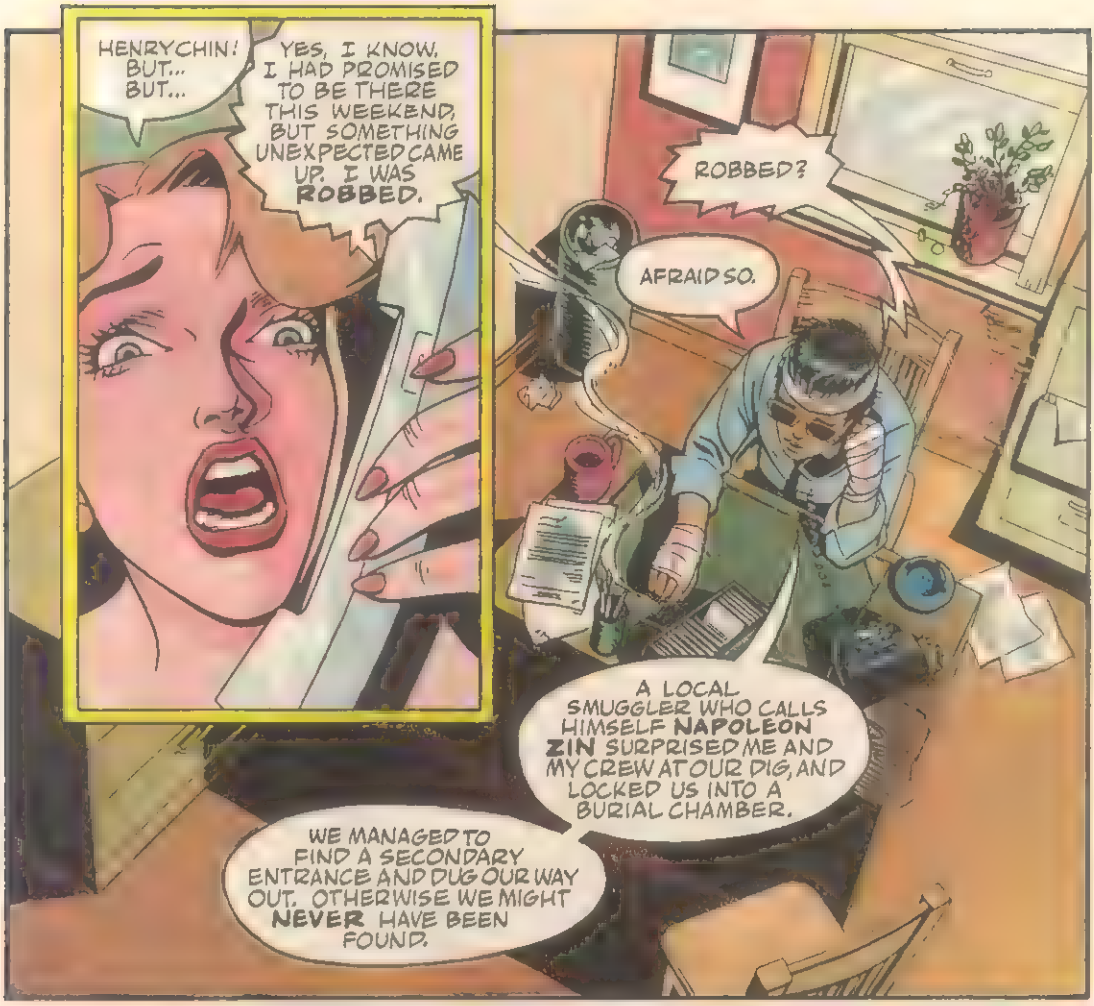

EXCEPT...I DON'T LIKE BEING INSULTED EITHER.
AND ANYONE WHO EXPECTED ME TO BELIEVE THAT A TRAINED SCIENTIST SPOKE ENGLISH LIKE AN IMITATION CHARLIE CHAN WOULD BE INSULTING **ME**... WOULDN'T HE, DOCTOR?
HE WOULD INDEED, MADAM, HE WOULD INDEED. AND HE WOULD BE FORCED TO RENDER A MOST SINCERE **APOLOGY.**
IN THAT CASE, I'D BE FORCED TO **ACCEPT** IT.

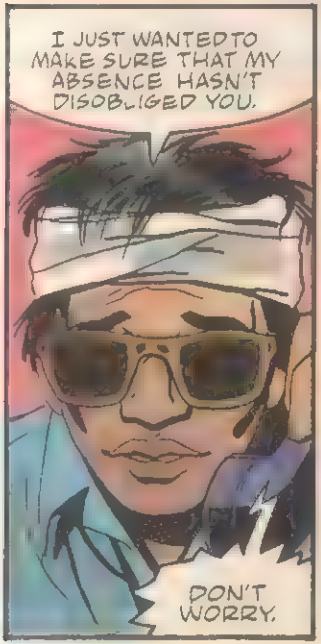
DING!
OH! MR. CARNES!
≥OOF!≤ WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU...!
OH, SORRY, FOLKS. THOUGHT YOU WERE THE HELP. THEM WAITERS AND SUCH IS ALWAYS UNDERFOOT.
NO PROBLEM. I THINK WE'RE ALL IN ONE PIECE.
MOST ASSUREDLY, GOOD SIR. AND I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE. I SHALL SEE YOU TOMORROW THOUGH. FAREWELL.
HM. AIN'T THAT FELLER'S ENGLISH IMPROVED RIGHT SUDDEN?
I HADN'T NOTICED.
I HEAR YOU'RE THE LITTLE LADY WHO WANTED TO BUY MY HOTEL.
ONLY A GIRLISH WHIM. IT PASSED.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HELP WITH THAT? IT LOOKS HEAVY.
THIS? NAW... THIS AIN'T IMPORTANT.
YOU KNOW, I BEEN IN THE HOTEL GAME THIRTY YEARS.. BUT I AIN'T NEVER DONE ANYTHING HALFWAY AS INTERESTING AS WHAT YOUR HUBBY AND THE OTHERS ARE DOING.
DIGGING UP THE PAST, NOW, THAT'S FASCINATING.
NOT AS FASCINATING AS HOW THE PAST GETS HERE. DOES THE MUSEUM PAY PEOPLE TO DIG UP POTTERY?
WHY, I WOULDN'T KNOW. BUT FOLKS AROUND HERE IS SCRABBLE POOR. SOME'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY.

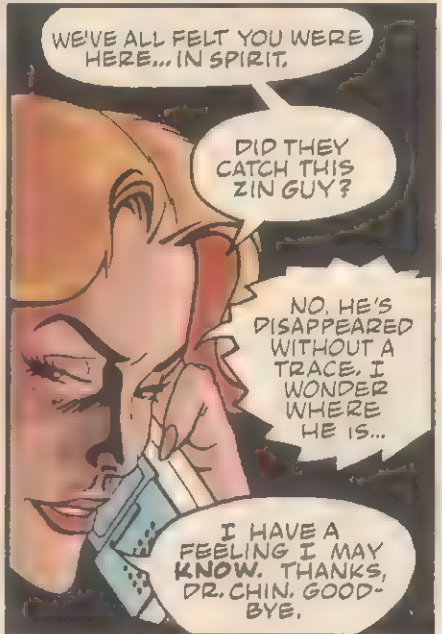
DO YOU THINK THERE'S ONE QUALITY PERSON IN THIS WHOLE CITY WHO'D HAVE SQUAT TO DO WITH ME IF I WAS POOR?
MONEY'S POWER... THE POWER TO BE LIKED!
THOSE FINE PROFESSORS WOULDN'T EVEN SEE ME, IF I WASN'T RICH!
AND I MEAN TO STAY RICH, ANY WAY I CAN! THE DESERT...
SORRY. CAN'T TALK NO MORE. GOT TO SEE TO BUSINESS.
SURE. NICE CHATTING WITH YOU, TOO.
LADY? LADY? THIS IS FOR YOU!
BEWARE! THE DEATH OF THE EAGLE AWAITS ALL THOSE WHO DISTURB THE REST OF THE DEAD!
"THE DEATH OF THE EAGLE"? WHO GAVE YOU THIS?
AN INDIAN LADY, MISSUS.
"...ALL THOSE WHO DISTURB..."
OH, MY GOD! BENTON!
"AS USUAL LUDY HAD GUESSED CORRECTLY.. AND I WAS HAVING MY USUAL LUCK."
BENTON!

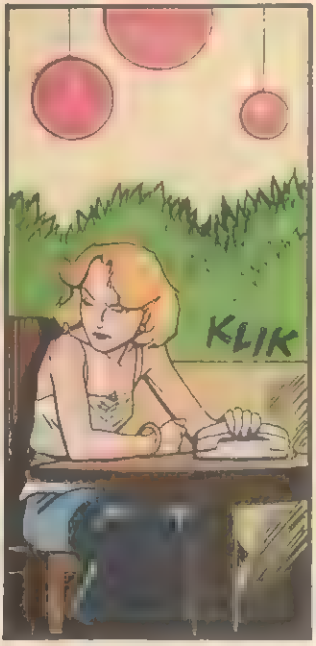

"ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, SOME SORT OF GAS-BOMB HAD BEEN SET OFF IN THE AIR VENT. PROFESSOR PETTY WAS BADLY SHAKEN AND STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL OVERNIGHT. I WAS BEGINNING TO WISH I HAD, TOO."
OOOOOH. MY HEAD'S TRYING TO EXPLODE FROM INSIDE... AND MY STOMACH THINKS IT'S AN EGGBEATER... OOOOOOH! I FEEL AWFUL...
JUDY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUST CHECKING OUT MY HEIGHT. SO MANY PEOPLE ARE CALLING ME "LITTLE LADY," I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE SHRINKING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WERE AFTER?
WHO KNOWS? AND WHO CARES?! MY HEAD IS SPLITTING. AS LONG AS THEY DIDN'T GET MY CHRONOGRAPHER, EVERYTHING'S GREAT... OOOOHH.
RIGHT. FUNNY THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT. DO YOU THINK ONE OF THE OTHER SCIENTISTS IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE YOU... YOU KNOW, PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY?
I CAN'T THINK WHY. THEY'RE ALL WORLD-CLASS, WITH SPOTLESS REPUTATIONS... EXCEPT BARTELLI, OF COURSE. AND THAT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO.
OOPS... I THINK I HAVE TO SIT DOWN.
IN FACT... OOOH... I THINK I'LL LIE DOWN A LITTLE LONGER.
POOR BABY... DO YOU WANT ME TO BRING YOU SOMETHING FROM THE RESTAURANT?
OOOOHHH... NOOO... NO SUPPER. YOU GO. I'LL BE... OOOHHH... FINE.
OKAY, TIGER. SEE YOU SOON.
"...EXCEPT BARTELLI..." HMMM.

MISTER BARTELLI! PROFESSOR!
AH, THE SO CHARMING MRS. QUEST. IS YOUR HUSBAND FEELING ALL RIGHT?
HE'S RESTING. BUT I'D FEEL BETTER, IF I KNEW WHO ATTACKED HIM.
BUT WE KNOW, DO WE NOT? THE SUPERSTITIOUS INDIANS ATTACKED HIM, TO SCARE US AWAY FROM THEIR SACRED GRAVES... IS THIS NOT SO?
MAYBE... BUT MAYBE IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE... SOMEBODY WITH A CLOUDED PAST, HOPING TO STEAL MY HUSBAND'S WORK AND TAKE CREDIT FOR IT.
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE LIKE THAT, PROFESSOR?
NO... NO, OF COURSE NOT. I... I...
ONE INCIDENT... ONE BOYHOOD LIE AND I AM BRANDED A THIEF FOREVER!
WHO TOLD YOU? WAS IT CARNES? THE LYING PIG PROMISED ME! I'LL WRING THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM!
PROFESSOR...! IT SURE IS HARD TO GET PEOPLE TO FINISH A CONVERSATION AROUND HERE!
EXCUSE ME, MRS. QUEST? WE HAVE A LONG DISTANCE CALL FROM EGYPT FOR YOUR HUSBAND. YOUR ROOM PHONE DOESN'T ANSWER.
I'LL TAKE IT. BENTON PROBABLY HAS THE PHONE UNPLUGGED.
HELLO?
HELLO, DR. QUEST? WE'VE NEVER MET, BUT I ADMIRE YOUR WORK GREATLY. I JUST REGRET I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET YOU THIS WEEKEND. I'M STUCK IN ALEXANDRIA.
MY NAME IS HENRY CHIN.

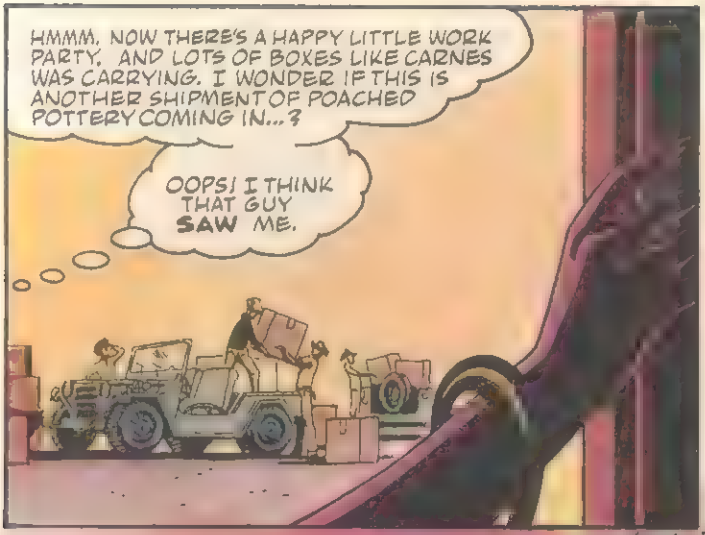

HENRYCHIN! BUT... BUT...
YES, I KNOW. I HAD PROMISED TO BE THERE THIS WEEKEND, BUT SOMETHING UNEXPECTED CAME UP. I WAS ROBBED.
ROBBED?
AFRAID SO.
A LOCAL SMUGGLER WHO CALLS HIMSELF NAPOLEON ZIN SURPRISED ME AND MY CREW AT OUR DIG, AND LOCKED US INTO A BURIAL CHAMBER.
WE MANAGED TO FIND A SECONDARY ENTRANCE AND DUG OUR WAY OUT. OTHERWISE WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND.

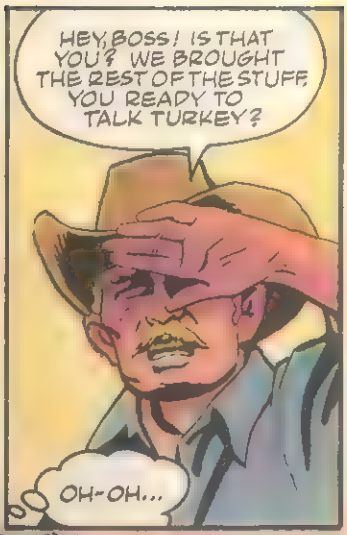

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT MY ABSENCE HASN'T DISOBLIGED YOU.
DON'T WORRY.


WE'VE ALL FELT YOU WERE HERE... IN SPIRIT.
DID THEY CATCH THIS ZIN GUY?
NO. HE'S DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE. I WONDER WHERE HE IS...
I HAVE A FEELING I MAY KNOW. THANKS, DR. CHIN. GOOD-BYE.


KLIK

HELLO? NORTHRIDGE HOSPITAL? I NEED TO SPEAK WITH PROFESSOR ANDREW PETTY. IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
I'M SORRY, MA'AM. PROFESSOR PETTY HAS DISAPPEARED. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
"TWENTY MINUTES LATER, IN THE STOREHOUSE BEHIND THE UNIVERSITY LABS..."
EVERYTHING LOOKS IN ORDER, BUT IF THE PHONY CHIN CAME HERE TO STEAL SOMETHING, I SHOULD CHECK EVERYTHING.
OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO TELL IF SOMETHING IS MISSING! JUST GREAT!
THESE DESIGNS ARE BEAUTIFUL. I WONDER IF SOMEHOW THEY REALLY WERE INSPIRED BY ANCIENT EGYPT.
IMAGINE...SO MANY CENTURIES AGO, TRADE BETWEEN...
WHAT'S THAT?
RRRRRR
RRRRRR

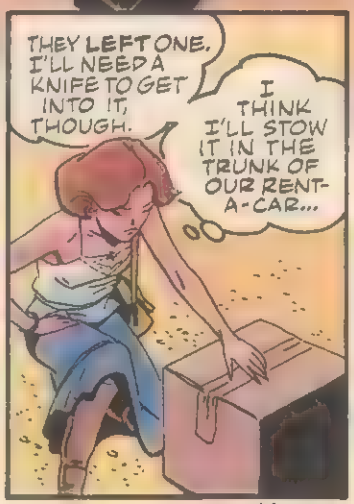

HMMM. NOW THERE'S A HAPPY LITTLE WORK PARTY. AND LOTS OF BOXES LIKE CARNES WAS CARRYING. I WONDER IF THIS IS ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF POACHED POTTERY COMING IN...?
OOPS! I THINK THAT GUY SAW ME.

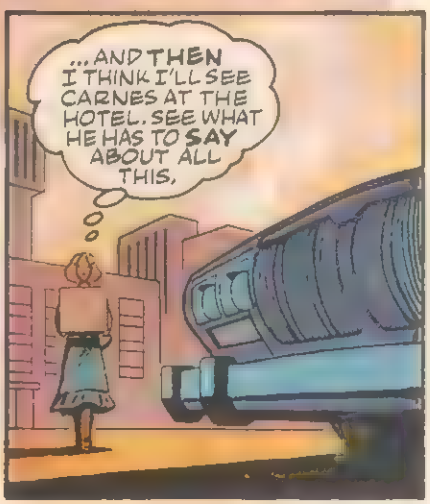

HEY, BOSS! IS THAT YOU? WE BROUGHT THE REST OF THE STUFF. YOU READY TO TALK TURKEY?
OH-OH...

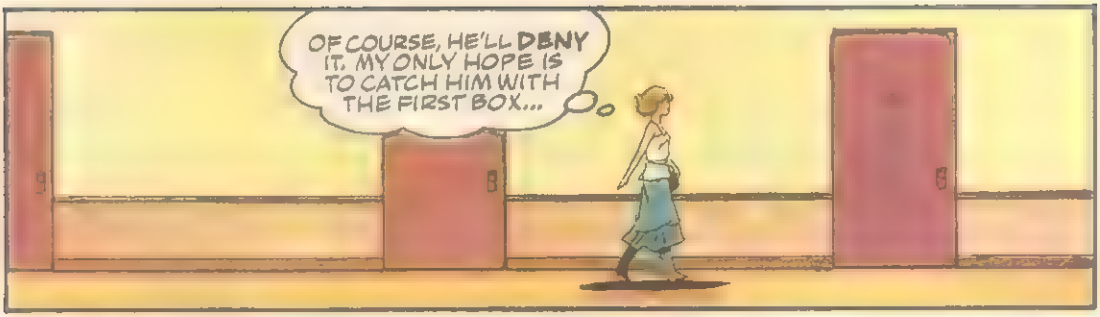
UH...SURE... BRING THOSE OVER HERE, WILL YA?

RRUMMM
RROOM!
RUN! GRAB THE STUFF!
THAT AIN'T HIM! IT'S A TRAP!
SCREEEE
LEAVE IT! MAKE TRACKS!

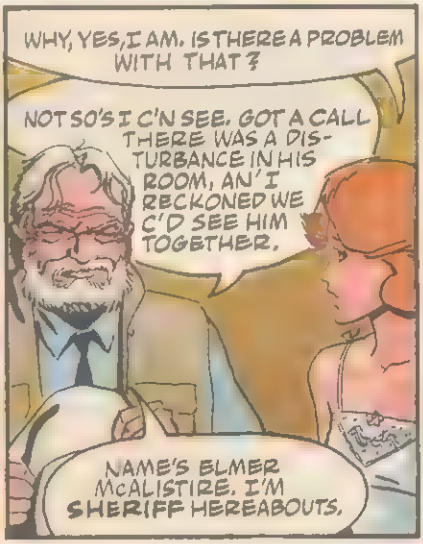
SO MUCH FOR MY GIVING RICH LITTLE ANY COMPETITION.

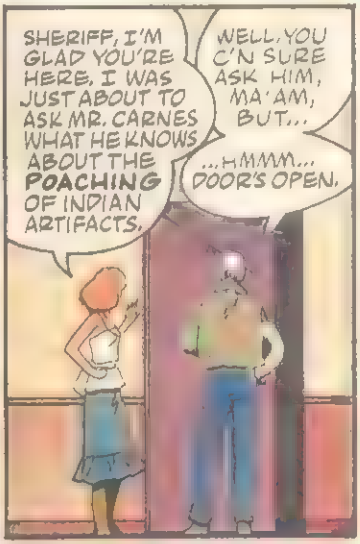

THEY LEFT ONE. I'LL NEED A KNIFE TO GET INTO IT, THOUGH.
I THINK I'LL STOW IT IN THE TRUNK OF OUR RENT-A-CAR...


...AND THEN I THINK I'LL SEE CARNES AT THE HOTEL. SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS.

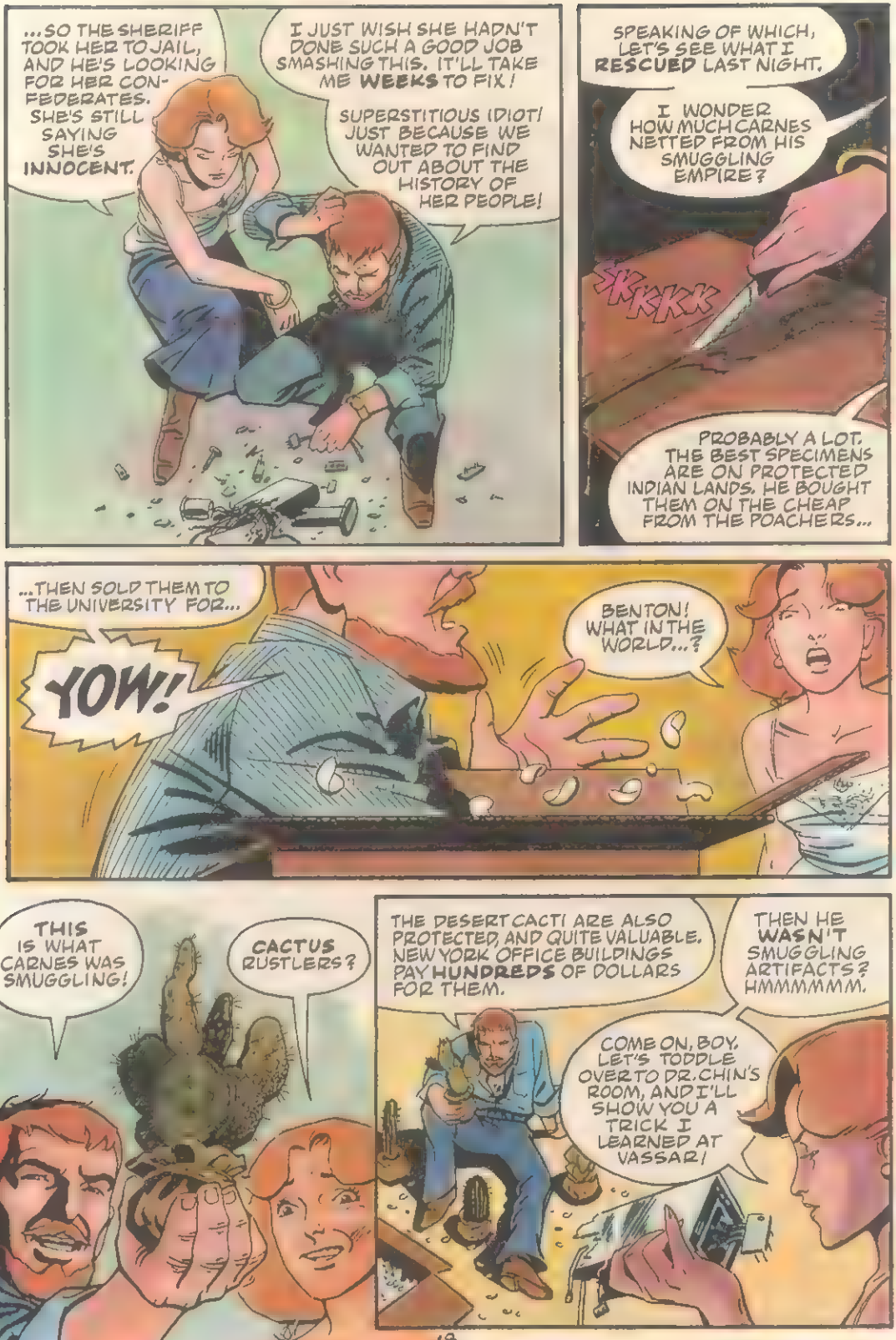

OF COURSE, HE'LL DENY IT. MY ONLY HOPE IS TO CATCH HIM WITH THE FIRST BOX...

'SCUSE ME, MA'AM. ARE YOU GOIN' T SEE ROSCOE CARNES?

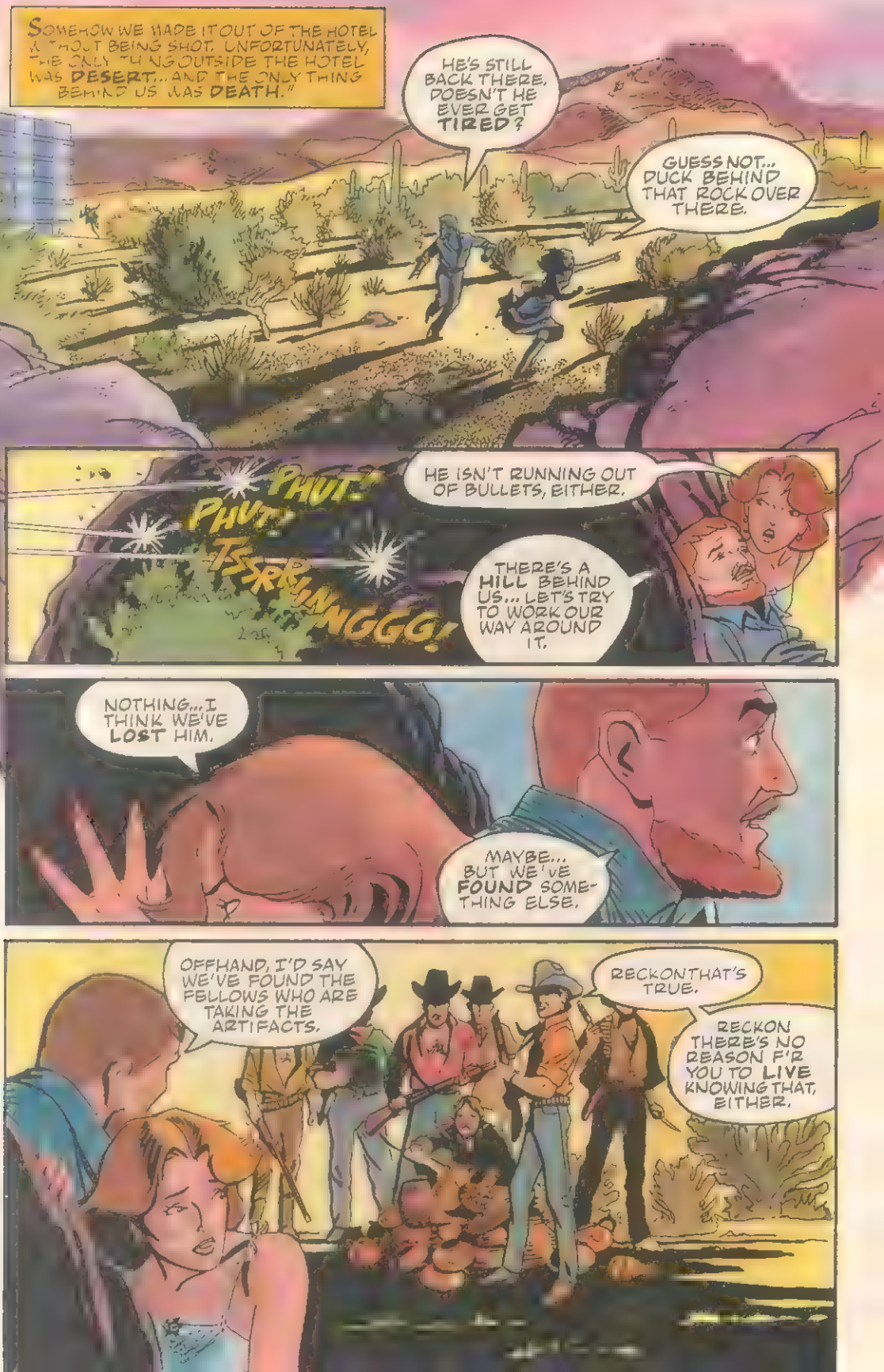

WHY, YES, I AM. IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
NOT SO'S I C'N SEE. GOT A CALL THERE WAS A DISTURBANCE IN HIS ROOM, AN' I RECKONED WE C'D SEE HIM TOGETHER.
NAME'S ELMER McALISTIRE. I'M SHERIFF HEREABOUTS.


SHERIFF, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASK MR. CARNES WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT THE POACHING OF INDIAN ARTIFACTS.
WELL, YOU C'N SURE ASK HIM, MA'AM, BUT...
...HMMM... DOOR'S OPEN.

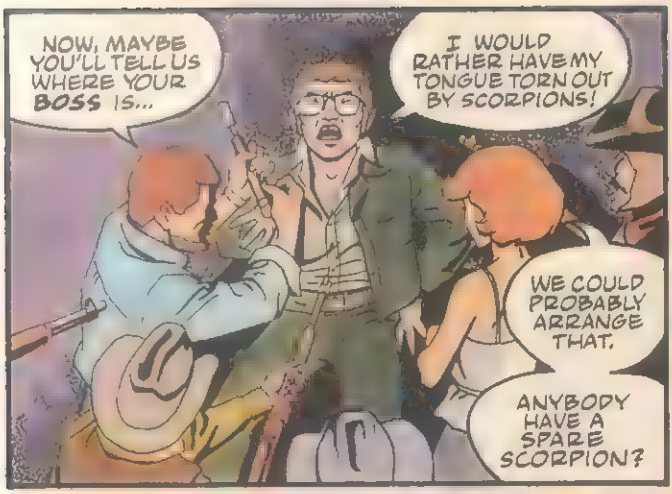
HE...HE SENT FOR MAID SERVICE... THIS IS NOT MY FAULT...!


...SO THE SHERIFF TOOK HER TO JAIL, AND HE'S LOOKING FOR HER CONFEDERATES. SHE'S STILL SAYING SHE'S INNOCENT.
I JUST WISH SHE HADN'T DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB SMASHING THIS. IT'LL TAKE ME WEEKS TO FIX!
SUPERSTITIOUS IDIOT! JUST BECAUSE WE WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HER PEOPLE!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, LET'S SEE WHAT I RESCUED LAST NIGHT.
I WONDER HOW MUCH CARNES NETTED FROM HIS SMUGGLING EMPIRE?
SKKKK
PROBABLY A LOT. THE BEST SPECIMENS ARE ON PROTECTED INDIAN LANDS. HE BOUGHT THEM ON THE CHEAP FROM THE POACHERS...
...THEN SOLD THEM TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR...
YOW!
BENTON! WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
THIS IS WHAT CARNES WAS SMUGGLING!
CACTUS RUSTLERS?
THE DESERT CACTI ARE ALSO PROTECTED, AND QUITE VALUABLE. NEW YORK OFFICE BUILDINGS PAY HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS FOR THEM.
THEN HE WASN'T SMUGGLING ARTIFACTS? HMMMMMM.
COME ON, BOY. LET'S TODDLE OVER TO DR. CHIN'S ROOM, AND I'LL SHOW YOU A TRICK I LEARNED AT VASSAR!

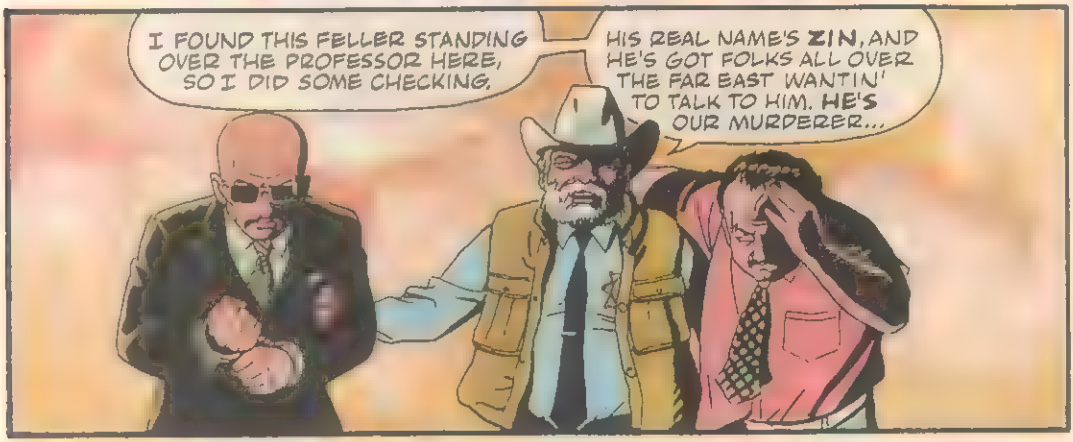
"OF COURSE, THERE WAS NO STOPPING HER. SHE WAS IN HER ELEMENT, AND ALL I COULD DO WAS STAND BY AND AMUSE MYSELF BY REPEATING THE CRIMINAL CODE FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING..."
YOU LEARNED LOCK-PICKING AT VASSAR?
I FELL IN WITH BAD COMPANIONS.
RELAX, BENTON. IF I'M WRONG, I'LL GO DOWN ON MY KNEES AND APOLOGIZE TO CHIN.
BUT IF I'M RIGHT...AHA!
LOOK AT THIS! DR. CHIN HAS BEEN A NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY BOY!
OR DO WE START CALLING HIM ZIN NOW?
MY DEVICE! THEN THE ONE THAT WAS SMASHED WAS A PHONY... PLANTED AFTER THE FIRST ATTACK?
RIGHT! WHOEVER SMASHED IT AND KILLED CARNES THOUGHT HE WAS SMASHING THE REAL ONE.
WE'RE DEALING WITH AT LEAST TWO GROUPS OF BAD GUYS, MAYBE MORE, AND...
PHUT!
PHUT!
YIKE! AND HERE THEY COME NOW!
THAT WAY, QUICK!
IT'S ZIN'S ASSISTANT! NOW WE KNOW THEY'RE GANGSTERS!
MAYBE HE'S JUST A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN, WHO DOESN'T LIKE HIS ROOM BROKEN INTO. EVER CONSIDER THAT?
NO.


SOMEHOW WE MADE IT OUT OF THE HOTEL WITHOUT BEING SHOT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY THING OUTSIDE THE HOTEL WAS DESERT... AND THE ONLY THING BEHIND US WAS DEATH."
HE'S STILL BACK THERE. DOESN'T HE EVER GET TIRED?
GUESS NOT... DUCK BEHIND THAT ROCK OVER THERE.
PHUT! PHUT! TSSRSHNGGG!
HE ISN'T RUNNING OUT OF BULLETS, EITHER.
THERE'S A HILL BEHIND US... LET'S TRY TO WORK OUR WAY AROUND IT.
NOTHING... I THINK WE'VE LOST HIM.
MAYBE... BUT WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING ELSE.
OFFHAND, I'D SAY WE'VE FOUND THE FELLOWS WHO ARE TAKING THE ARTIFACTS.
RECKON THAT'S TRUE.
RECKON THERE'S NO REASON F'R YOU TO LIVE KNOWING THAT, EITHER.

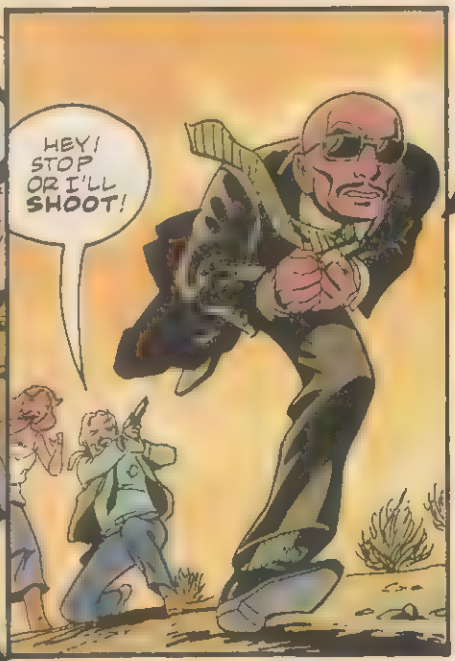
Y'SEE, LITTLE LADY, MY DADDY AND HIS DADDY BEFORE HIM HUNTED THESE POTS...THE FELLERS AT THE UNIVERSITY BUY 'EM, AND THAT'S HOW I FEED MY FAMILY.
SO SUPPOSE YOU JUST TURN AROUND AND WALK OUTTA HERE, 'CAUSE IF THAT FELLER OUT THERE GETS YOU... WELL, IT'LL MAKE THINGS A SIGHT LESS COMPLICATED.
OH, I SEE. WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE MONEY...
...SUPPOSE I HIRE YOU ALL AS BODYGUARDS FOR, SAY... 500 A DAY, PLUS EXPENSES?
FIVE HUNDRED A DAY...?
YOU MEAN, HIRE ALL OF US, FOR 500 DOLLARS A DAY...?
...PLUS EXPENSES?
LITTLE LADY, YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!
YOU SEE, BENTON? I WONDER WHY EVERYONE THINKS DETECTIVE WORK IS SO COMPLICATED!
HELLO...HELLO, OUT THERE...YOU WITH THE GUN? PLEASE DON'T SHOOT US...WE'RE COMING OUT...
I'D GIVE UP, IF I WERE YOU.

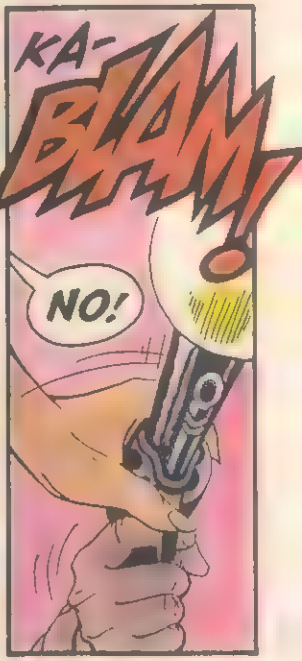

NOW, MAYBE YOU'LL TELL US WHERE YOUR BOSS IS...
I WOULD RATHER HAVE MY TONGUE TORN OUT BY SCORPIONS!
WE COULD PROBABLY ARRANGE THAT.
ANYBODY HAVE A SPARE SCORPION?

NO NEED FOR THAT. HE'S RIGHT HERE.


I FOUND THIS FELLER STANDING OVER THE PROFESSOR HERE, SO I DID SOME CHECKING.
HIS REAL NAME'S ZIN, AND HE'S GOT FOLKS ALL OVER THE FAR EAST WANTIN' TO TALK TO HIM. HE'S OUR MURDERER...

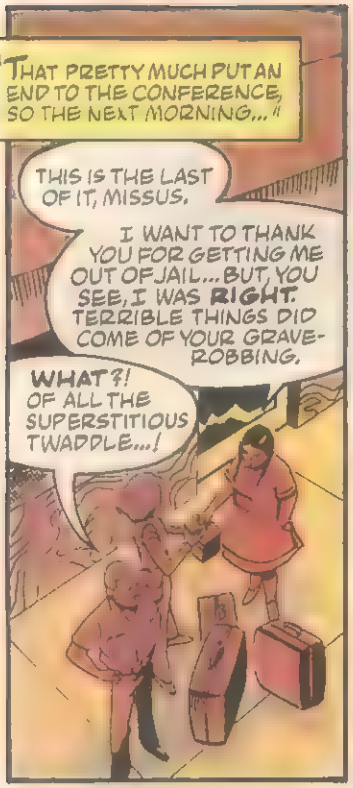
OOF!

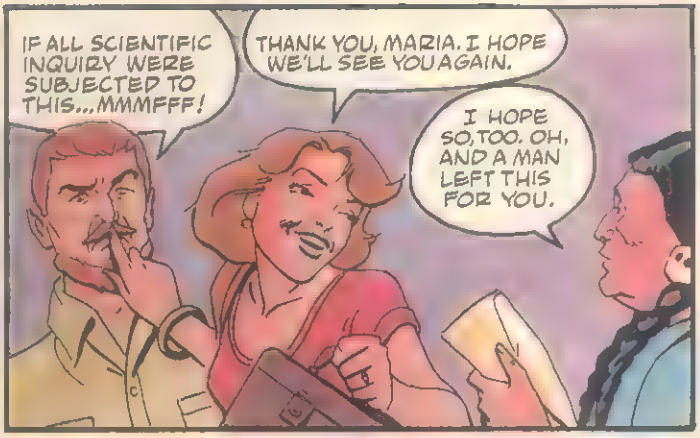

HEY! STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!

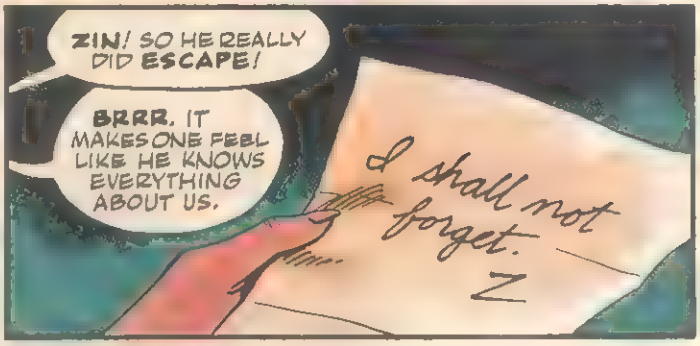

KA-
BLAM!
NO!

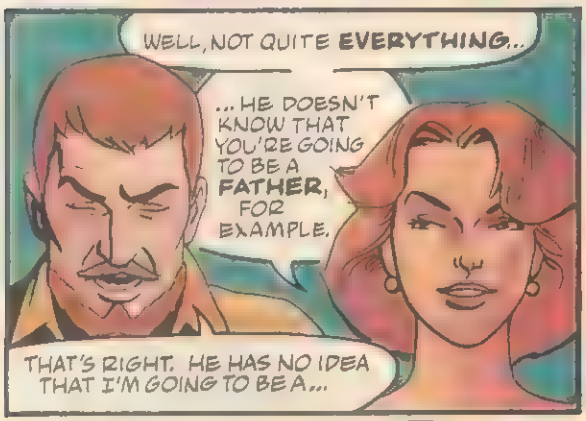
LITTLE LADY, WHY DID YOU DO THAT? YOU JUST LET THAT RASCAL ESCAPE-- AN' HIM A MURDERER AN' ALL!
HE'S NO MURDERER, AT LEAST NOT OF ROSCOE CARNES.
HE HAD WHAT HE WANTED, THE CHRONOGRAPH, AND WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO ESCAPE.
NO, MY GUESS IS THE MAN WHO KILLED CARNES, AND SMASHED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE REAL DEVICE, WAS THE ONLY MAN WHO HAD SOMETHING TO LOSE IF IT WAS USED...
YOU SEE, DON'T YOU, BENTON?
I'M AFRAID I DO.
I THINK IF WE TEST YOUR "PROTO-EGYPTIAN" POTTERY, WE'LL FIND THEY'RE ALL FAKES. WON'T WE, PROFESSOR? AND MAYBE MORE OF THE COLLECTION, TOO?
THAT'S WHAT CARNES FOUND OUT, AND YOU KILLED HIM FOR IT!
HOW DARE YOU?! MY REPUTATION IS UNTARNISHED!
I AM A RESPECTED RESEARCHER! CARNES WAS MY FRIEND! I WOULDN'T...I...I...
DAMN.

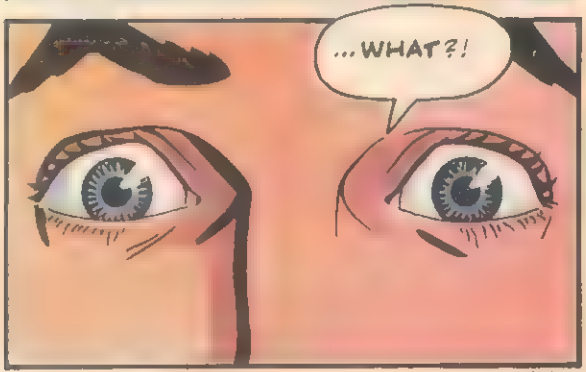
CARNES WAS A PARASITE. WE ALL KNEW HOW HE MADE HIS MONEY, BUT WE LET HIM FUND THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT ANYWAY.
I THINK HE DID IT AS A TICKLE TO HIS VANITY.
BUT THEN HE WANTED RESULTS! MORE DISCOVERIES, MORE FLASHY HEADLINES! I HAD TO DO **SOMETHING**...
...I BEGAN TO FUDGE. THEN I REALIZED HOW EASY IT WAS TO **FORGE** THE POTTERY. WE WERE BUYING SO MUCH ON THE BLACK MARKET, NO ONE QUESTIONED THE WAY IT SUDDENLY APPEARED.
BUT CARNES FOUND OUT. HE CAUGHT ME TRYING TO STEAL YOUR INVENTION AFTER I SNUCK OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.
HE WAS AFRAID ANY SCANDAL WOULD UNCOVER **HIS** UNSAVORY DEALINGS. WE FOUGHT AND..
BENTON, YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
I...UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR. I DON'T **APPROVE**, BUT I UNDERSTAND.
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING, ANYWAY.

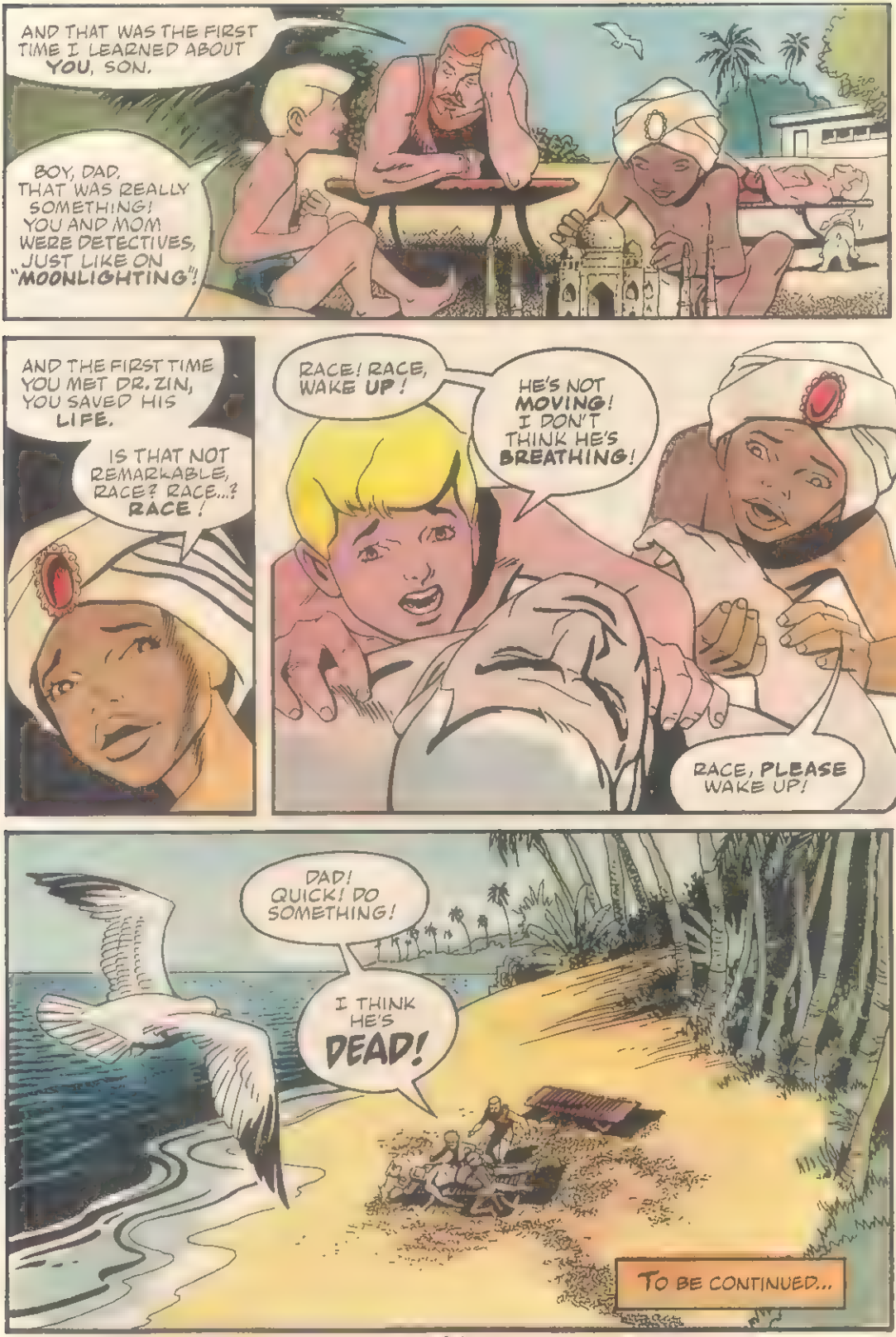

'THAT PRETTY MUCH PUT AN END TO THE CONFERENCE, SO THE NEXT MORNING..."
THIS IS THE LAST OF IT, MISSUS.
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GETTING ME OUT OF JAIL... BUT, YOU SEE, I WAS RIGHT. TERRIBLE THINGS DID COME OF YOUR GRAVE-ROBBING.
WHAT?! OF ALL THE SUPERSTITIOUS TWADDLE...!


IF ALL SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY WERE SUBJECTED TO THIS... MMMFFF!
THANK YOU, MARIA. I HOPE WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.
I HOPE SO, TOO. OH, AND A MAN LEFT THIS FOR YOU.


ZIN! SO HE REALLY DID ESCAPE!
BRRR. IT MAKES ONE FEEL LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US.
I shall not forget.
Z


WELL, NOT QUITE EVERYTHING...
...HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FATHER, FOR EXAMPLE.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE HAS NO IDEA THAT I'M GOING TO BE A...


...WHAT?!


AND THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I LEARNED ABOUT YOU, SON.
BOY, DAD, THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING! YOU AND MOM WERE DETECTIVES, JUST LIKE ON "MOONLIGHTING"!
AND THE FIRST TIME YOU MET DR. ZIN, YOU SAVED HIS LIFE.
IS THAT NOT REMARKABLE, RACE? RACE...? RACE!
RACE! RACE, WAKE UP!
HE'S NOT MOVING! I DON'T THINK HE'S BREATHING!
RACE, PLEASE WAKE UP!
DAD! QUICK! DO SOMETHING!
I THINK HE'S DEAD!
TO BE CONTINUED...

Questions and ANS'WERS'

1547 DeKALB STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401

Rather than printing any letters in this first installment of our JONNY QUEST lettercol, we're pleased to present instead an interview with ***Joseph Barbera,*** *president of the prestigious animation studio, Hanna-Barbera Productions. Interviewed by Steve Kaye, Mr. Barbera talks about one of his favorite shows—you guessed it!—THE ADVENTURES OF JONNY QUEST, which is now returning to television (as part of THE FUNTASTIC WORLD OF HANNA BARBERA) and to comic books with this very issue, courtesy of Comico The Comic Company!*

STEVE KAYE: *Jonny Quest* is a twenty-year old show, and yet it is as popular today as when it first aired. How do you account for that popularity?

JOSEPH BARBERA: The characters were human beings. We had a gutsy, dynamic hero, a brainy top scientist, a couple of adventuresome boys. It was a good formula. And we had stories that had great imagination—the trademark of the *Jonny Quest* concept.

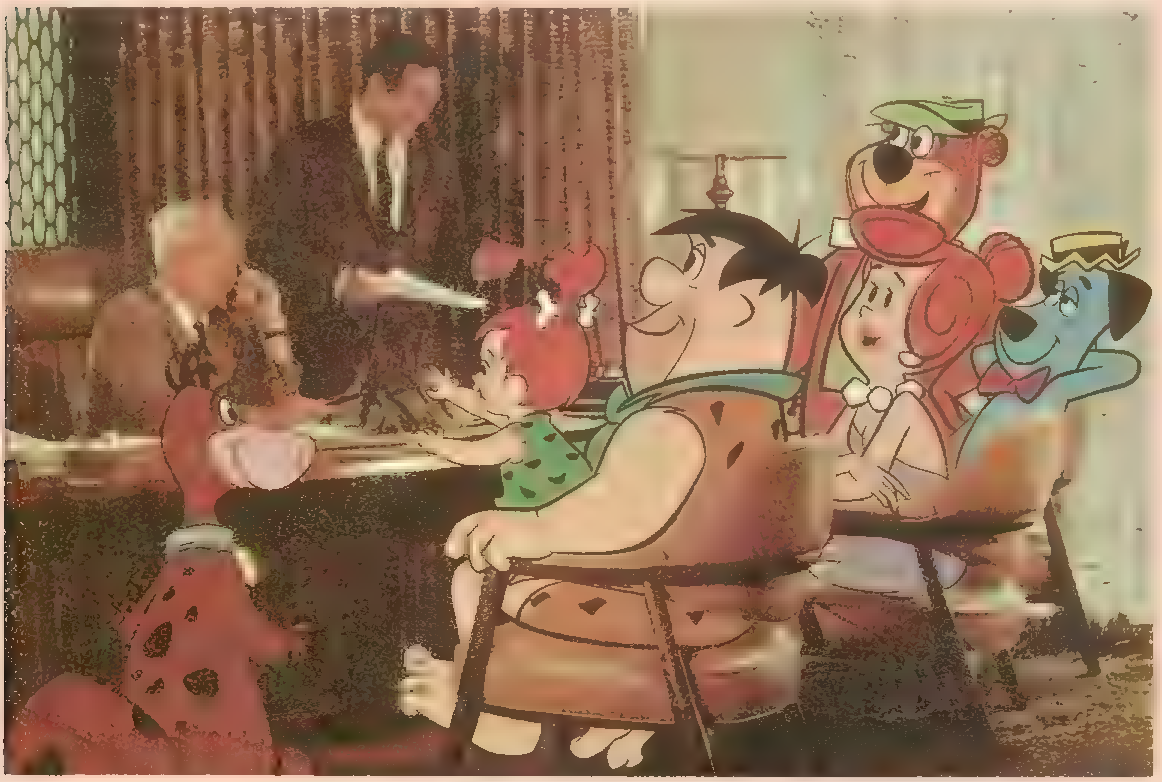
KAYE: *Quest* seems to have been inspired by the grand adventure comic strips of the thirties and forties.

BARBERA: It's a lot like those comics. Fast paced, action-packed. It has the same feeling of the old strips.

KAYE: Like *Terry and the Pirates?*

BARBERA: A lot like *Terry,* and *Steve Canyon.*

KAYE: Milt Caniff's stuff?



William Hanna *(seated)* **and Joseph Barbera negotiate with some of their more popular creations.**

BARBERA: Yes.

KAYE: Have you seen the first issue of Comico's comic book version of *Quest?*

BARBERA: I was sent an advance copy. It's very well done. The artwork looks great. It's the same kind of style we've used in the new animated series. It has a very "action comic book" feel to it.

KAYE: *Quest* fits very well into a comic book format, then?

BARBERA: Yes, very well. But I feel it works just as well on the screen where we can bring to life adventure and fantasy in a believable way.

KAYE: This kind of adventure has come back into favor in the 1980s. We see this with live action films about other cartoon characters, and in the *Indiana Jones, Star Wars,* and *Romancing the Stone* films. Does *Quest* have a home in the '80s?

BARBERA: More than ever before! What we did in the '60s set the pace. Our characters were interesting, our stories were dramatic, and each adventure was packed with action. It was really the first adventure of its kind. It was way ahead of its time. It was advanced in visuals, in the designing of equipment, and in the characters.

Take a look at *Indiana Jones.* A great adventure. But right in the middle of it is a young boy having the time of his life. We were doing that twenty years ago.

KAYE: You're producing new episodes of *Quest.* Why now?

BARBERA: In the last two years we had six different requests from six different live-action production companies for exclusive rights to either a live prime time television show or motion picture. For two years we've been in negotiations and have turned down a lot of deals. This kind of thing convinced us that the interest was still there.

Colorful animators William Hanna and Joseph Barbera

KAYE: What can we expect to see in the new *Jonny Quest?*

BARBERA: Well, the art is as good or even better than the first show. In the old show, the characters were more posed. Now it's more action, more movement.

KAYE: You're using the new computer animation on this series.

BARBERA: Some of it, yes. We'll get some new looks with this process. There'll be a lot more action. In addition, we're equipping the characters with vehicles and devices that will be twenty years ahead of their time.

KAYE: Just like the first show.

BARBERA: We were twenty years ahead of our time back then. In our machines, our stories, and our characters. We've done a lot of updating for the new show. And we're adding some new and exciting characters. Some secret characters. You'll have to watch the show to find out.

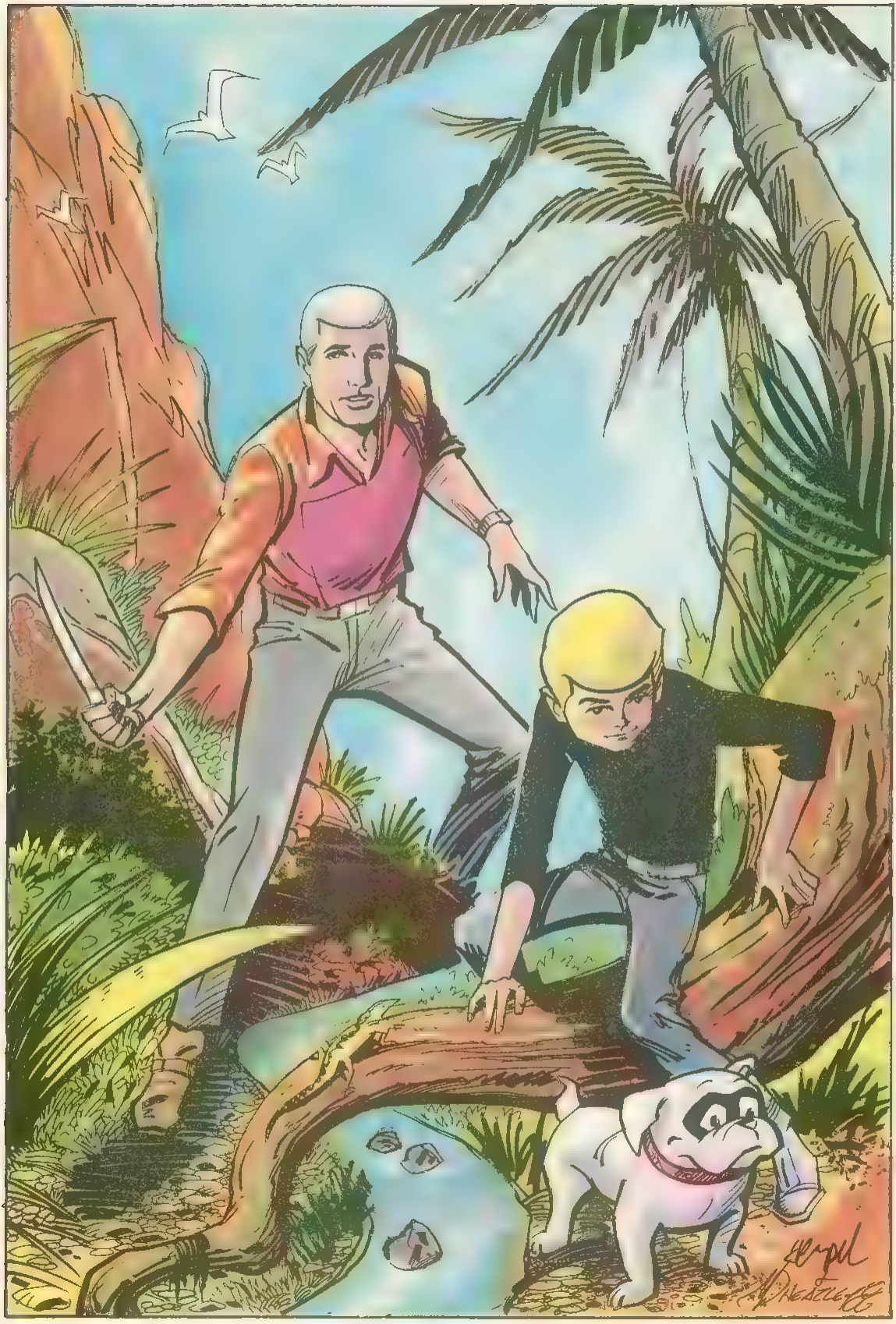
KAYE: I know I'm looking forward to this series.

BARBERA: So am I. I have been for twenty years.

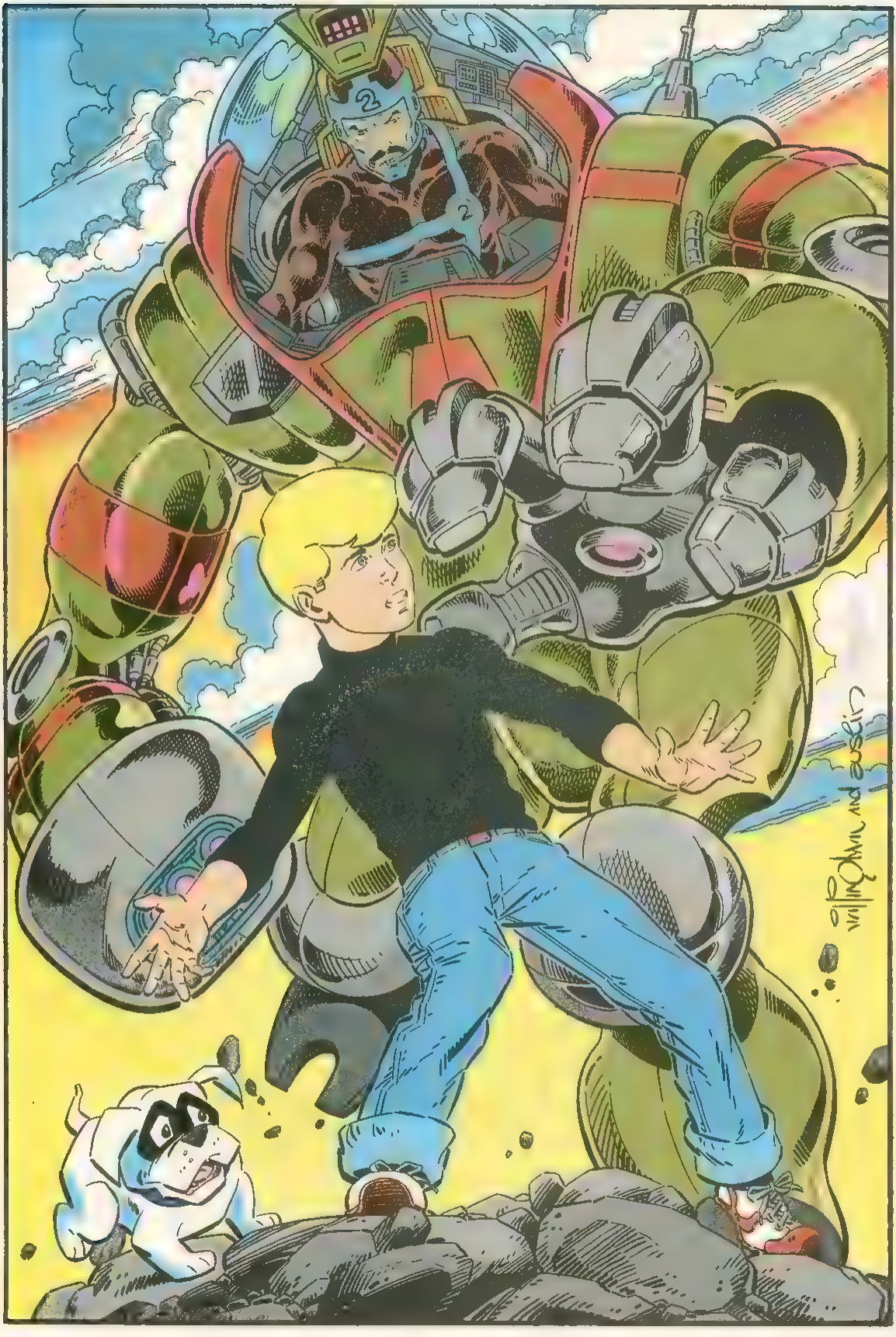
Next ish: Your letters! And a sensitive tale by Bill Loebs, with art by Wendy Pini and Joe Staton. Stay tuned for "Enter Race Bannon."

—Diana Schutz

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna Barbera Productions



JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc



JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

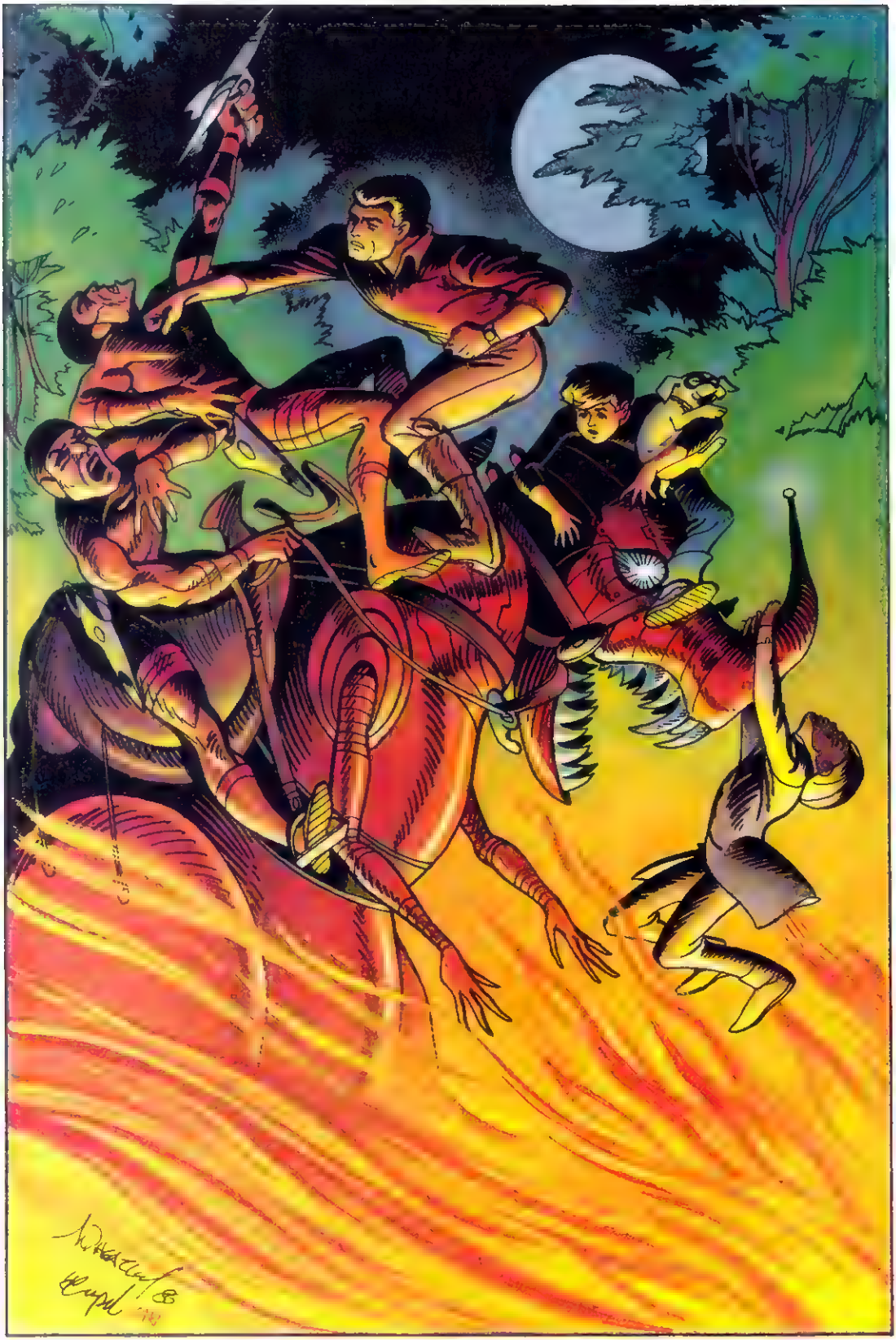
JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc

Pin-up by Keith Wilson and Ken Feduniewicz

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Pin-up by Robb Phipps, Mike Gustovich, and Kurt Mausert.



JONNY QUEST TM and © 1986 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Pin-up by Marc Hempel and Mark Wheatley

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Pin-up by Tom Grindberg and Joe Matt

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Pin-up by Sam Kieth

Pin-up by Brent Anderson and Tom Vincent

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc

Pin-up by Ken Steacy

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Pin-up by John K. Snyder III

Pin-up by Timothy Truman and Sam Parsons

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO

JONNY QUEST™

1
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
00741
CDC

DOUG WILDEY

COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
2
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
00741
CDC
LOBBY
X-RAY
WENDY PINI '86 & THE DUDE

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
3
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
00741
CDC
"GUNS FOR THE LAUGHING MAN"
Dave Stevens 1985

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
4
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
00741
CDC
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY
T. YEATES
A. WILLIAMSON
1987

COMICO
JONNY QUEST
5
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
CDC
"JADE
INCORPORATED"
Dave
Stevens
1986

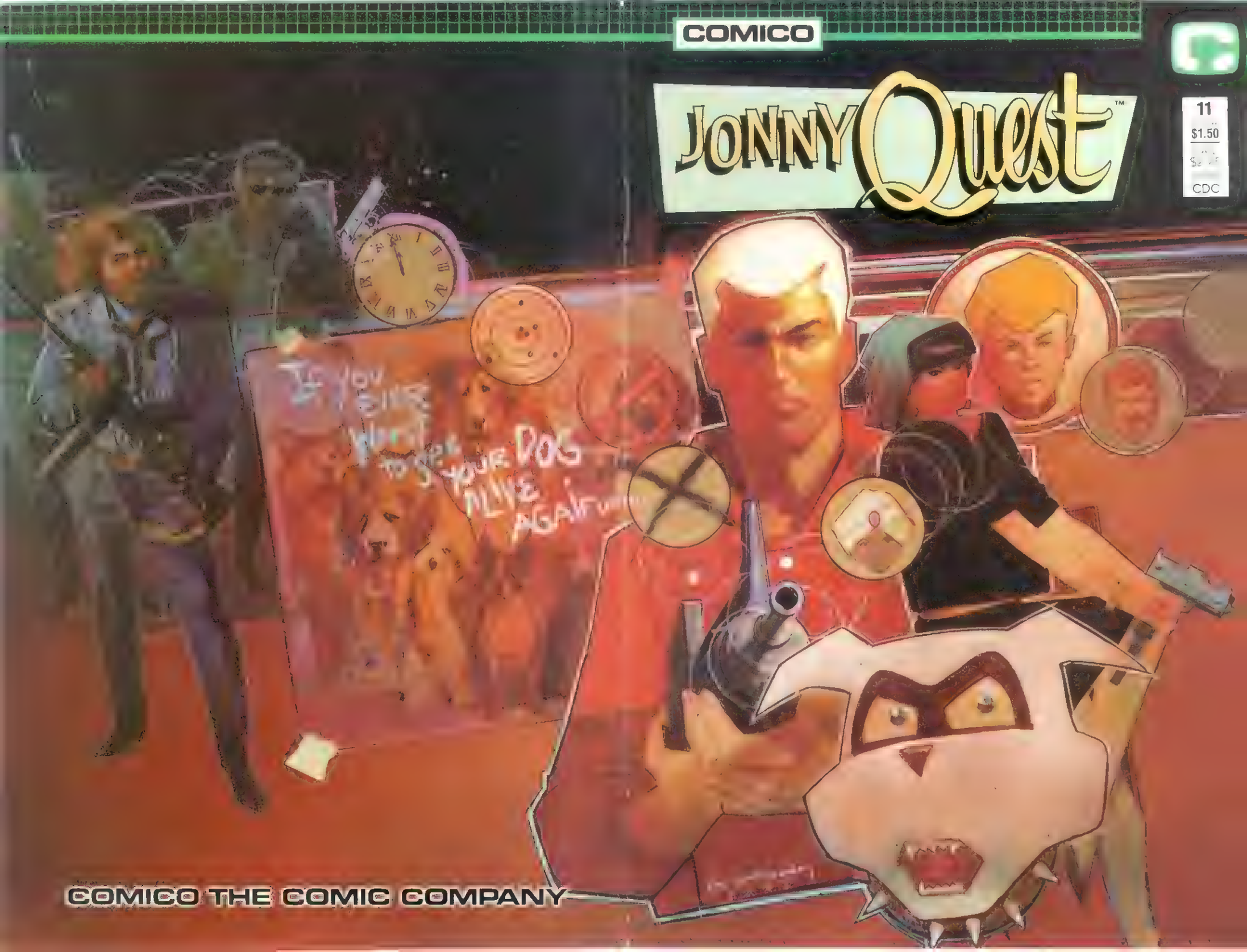
COMICO
JONNY Quest™
6
$1.50
USA
$2.25
CAN
00741
CDC
MR. QUIGGLY... COME BACK! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
ADAM KUBERT '86
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
7
U.S.A.
$1.50
CAN.
$2.25
00741
CDC
DOUG WILDEY
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

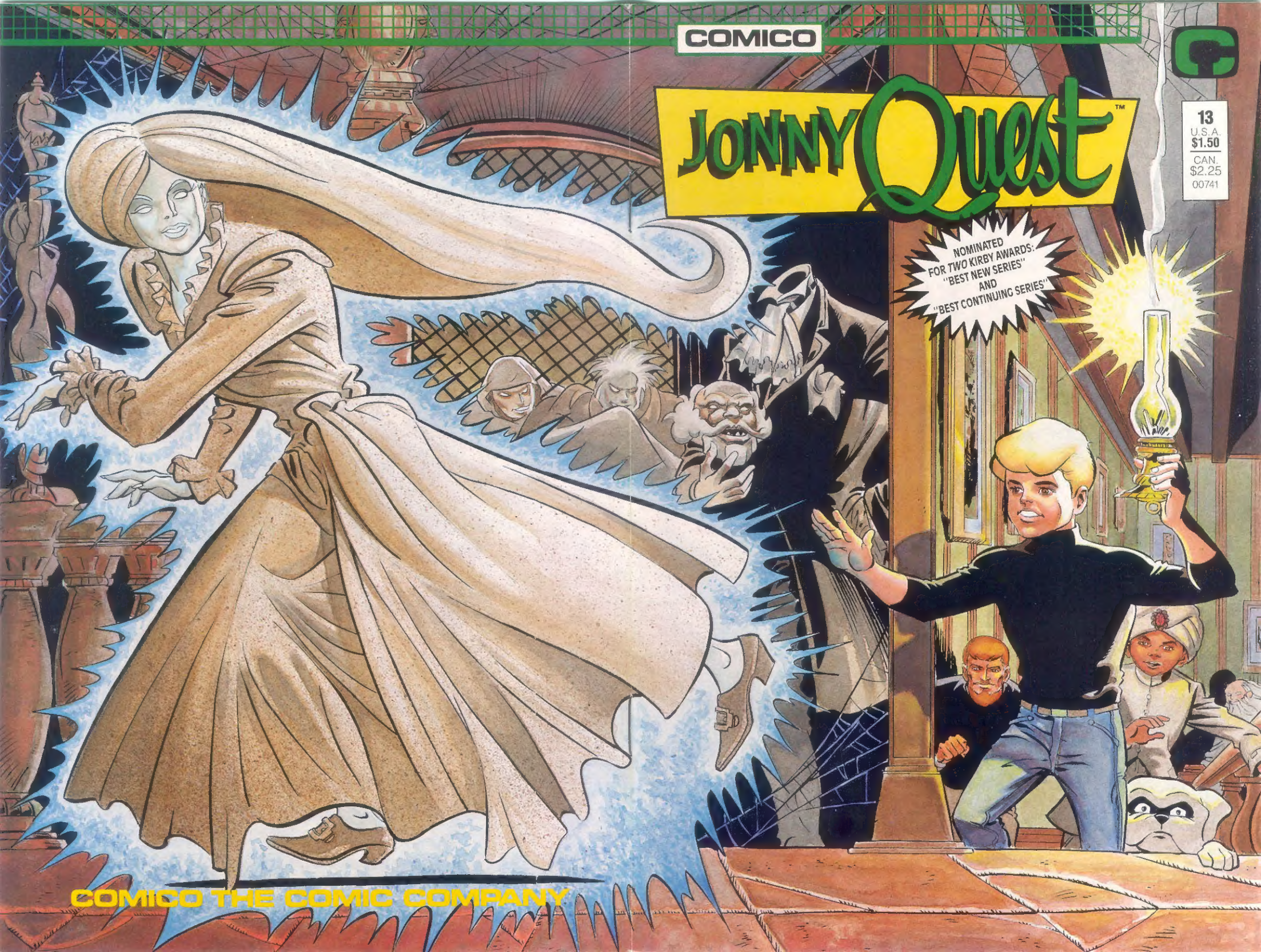
COMICO
JONNY QUEST™
8
U.S.A.
$1.50
CAN.
$2.25
CDC
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
9
USA
$1.50
CAN
$2.25
CDC
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest
10
USA
$1.50
CAN
$2 25
00741
CDC
WINTERS
DISCONTENT


COMICO
JONNY Quest™
11
$1.50
CDC
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest
12
U.S.A.
$1.50
CAN.
$2.25
00741
CDC
DOUG WILDEY
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY


COMICO
JONNY Quest™
13
U.S.A.
$1.50
CAN.
$2.25
00741
NOMINATED
FOR TWO KIRBY AWARDS:
"BEST NEW SERIES"
AND
"BEST CONTINUING SERIES"
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
14
U.S.A. $1.50
CAN. $2.25
00741
NOMINATED FOR TWO KIRBY AWARDS: "BEST NEW SERIES" AND "BEST CONTINUING SERIES"
The Song of SPACE
COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY

COMICO
JONNY Quest™
15
U.S.A. $1.75
CAN. $2.50
00741
DAD! I THINK RACE IS-- DEAD!